

TUFTS OBSERVER

TUFTS' STUDENT MAGAZINE

APRIL 18, 2008

Spiritual Tension Threatens a Faithful University

Also: Our Annual Interview with President Bacow

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The Observer has been Tufts' weekly publication of record since 1895. Our dedication to in-depth reporting, journalistic innovation, and honest dialogue has remained intact for over a century. Today, we offer insightful news analysis, cogent and diverse opinion pieces, and lively reviews of current arts, entertainment, and sports. Through poignant writing and artistic elegance, we aim to entertain, inform, and above all challenge the Tufts community to effect positive change.



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Letters to the Editor – Online

Spitzer's Double Standard, April 4

Eliot Spitzer [sic] life was a lie — he prosecuted escort rings while patronizing one, advocated campaign finance reform while taking \$9M in illegal campaign contributions from his father and talked for civil liberties while using the state police to spy, Nixon style, on his political opponents. The crime is not sex...it's hypocrisy.

—Roger Stone, April 5, 2008

Thanks for this platform.

The original reasoning to pursue the matter, I was led to believe, and seems positively appropriate, was to investigate whether the Governor was the victim of blackmail and extortion.

The transfer of money from the Governor's personal bank account(s) to non-personal corporate bank account(s), possibly out of state or even offshore seemingly deserved that heightened scrutiny both the bank, the IRS and the FBI gave it.

Whether the Governor was the victim of blackmail and extortion now or at any time in the past as a result of his activities and whether he was at any time compromised in his capacity to, in the past, investigate and enforce, or in the present, to legislate as an elected official, still very much remains to be seen.

The issue of hypocrisy in governance although frustrating is generally irrelevant to protecting the electorate.

The issue of whether the Governor's activity is a private activity or whether even this form of activity should even be legalized is also actually totally irrelevant

to a real understanding of protecting the electorate, and that my fiends [sic], is the real issue.

—Anonymous, April 5, 2008

If Plato Went Pre-Med, February 8

The author should take care to avoid generalizing his own experiences to that of all potential applicants. While not all students may know exactly what they wish to do at age 20, many do. Should deciding to be an engineering major during freshman year entail such criticism?

As for choosing medicine as a way to avoid making major life decisions, nothing could be further from the truth. A decision to prepare for and apply to medical school is no small decision and requires forethought and persistence. The pre-medical curriculum and "standard" EC's are specifically designed to weed out students who are either unprepared or uncertain. Mandating that students spend two years of their lives sitting under a tree would just cause the most driven students to lose sight of their goals and join the rat race.

In short, the author would be well-advised to take notice of the 97% graduation rate of US allopathic medical schools. Perhaps our medical students are more prepared, dedicated, and passionate than he gives them credit for.

—Anonymous, April 8, 2008

It is obvious that the author is a disillusioned pre-med, a student that is realizing medicine is not his calling. There is nothing wrong with changing your mind after the collegial experience but to generalize all premeds in this fashion is not only ignorant but arrogant. Most pre-

meds have a strong drive to become doctors; they're [sic] motivation is relentless and inspires them to enter this profession without haste. The long hours of planning and studying are there to ensure that only the strongest and most passionate "survive." They are by no means sheltered or blinded by the realities of this commitment [sic]. To study and practice medicine is my life's work, and it is one I do gladly each and every day. I didn't have to sit and contemplate my existence to know I was destined to be a doctor. Many medical students feel the same way. If Plato had to take many years off to ask himself if medicine was for him, then it probably wasn't.

—Anonymous, April 10, 2008

I disagree with the author as well. It is difficult for an undergraduate student to access the level of dedication and certainty others harvest within. He should've conducted research into this question before making these faulty assumptions. Medicine is a profession that is not only highly competitive, but academically challenging. It is not meant for everyone. It is the equivalent of being a professional athlete, in the sense that a person not only the inner drive, but the natural talents to succeed. In Europe (and most other countries in the world) medical students are younger than their American counterparts and are admitted after secondary school.

—Anonymous, April 10, 2008

Want to start your own conversation? Go to www.tuftsobserver.org to post comments.

Corrections

In our April 4 feature, "Mr. Jumbo Goes to Washington," the author failed to cite the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as a background source. On March 28, 2008, the *Chronicle* published a comprehensive report on Congressional earmarks, which cited some statistical information the writers used. *The Observer* regrets the error.

In the April 4 issue, the article covering the Tufts/BAC Solar Decathlon team by Will Ramsdell failed to mention the much-appreciated help of Ben Steinberg. We apologize for the failure to credit him and his crucial role as a source for the article for which we thank him.



ADAM LEVY

Finding A Place for Faith(s)

BY ALEXANDER DIETZ

While many of America's oldest and most prestigious universities were originally founded in order to educate ministers, Tufts has always had a tradition of religious liberty and tolerance. Still, that does not mean that Tufts' religious community does not have its share of challenges.

In recent months, the university chaplaincy has faced some decidedly down-to-earth issues, including a lawsuit by one of its former members and a difference of opinion over chaplain pay. A new initiative to promote interfaith dialogue and prevent religious conflict has grown and evolved, though it remains unclear how effective it will be. Finally, a lecture under a contentious heading led to protests over a perceived insult to Islam.

It's All About the Abrahams

In March, Tufts' former Muslim chaplain, Imam Nouredine Hawat, gave an interview to the *Tufts Daily* in which he claimed that he had been fired, contradicting the account of the university chaplain, Father David O'Leary, who said he had left

voluntarily to work at a Vermont mosque. Imam Hawat also said he planned to sue the university for thousands of dollars, alleging that Tufts had failed to reimburse him for money he had spent on an aborted renovation of the Islamic Center.

Most of the people *The Observer* interviewed declined to comment on the lawsuit, but Kim Thurler, Tufts' director of public relations, wrote in an e-mail, "The university believes that Imam Nouredine Hawat's complaint is without merit, and we are confident that the facts that we will present in court will demonstrate this." She also criticized Imam Hawat for his comments to the *Daily*, writing, "We do not intend to try this matter in the press."

Another topic of disagreement among the university's chaplains has been the source of their salaries. Currently, only Reverend O'Leary is paid by Tufts for his chaplaincy work, whereas the Protestant, Catholic, Muslim, and Jewish chaplains are funded by outside religious groups.

Shareda Hosein, Tufts' new Muslim chaplain, noted, "I personally think that the system that would be helpful is if everybody was paid by the university," noting that a similar system had been put into place at other

universities, such as Brandeis. She argued that chaplains should not be forced to raise funds on their own from outside organizations, particularly since "the university's going to get the benefit, not the organization." She added that not all chaplains are cut out to be fundraisers, and said she felt "that with the amount of training and education that we have, for us to work for next to nothing to have to go fundraise is really unfortunate."

Ann Penick, the university's Catholic chaplain, shared similar concerns. "I was full-time until two years ago, and then the archdiocese cut my position to part time, and that's been a real challenge," she said, adding that the length of her tenure at the university is "unpredictable." Penick could find out on June 28 that her position had been eliminated, "and I would like to see the kind of funding where there's more stability to it. Now whether that be Tufts itself or a foundation that would fund our positions, I would like to see that."

Tufts' other denominational chaplains disagreed. Protestant chaplain Jeff VonWald said in an e-mail, "Getting funding from multiple sources may not be ideal for anyone; but perhaps it is a necessary part of having a chaplaincy today." Rabbi Jeffrey Summit,



the Jewish chaplain, said that it was “silly” to think the university would abandon the structure that has evolved here, saying, “Things are working fine as they are.”

Reverend O’Leary also defended the current system, saying, “That’s just the makeup of the Tufts charter that the university chaplain is the only one that’s a full-time person.” He also said that the fact that the other chaplains were not paid by Tufts did not affect its control over its religious employees. However, in November, he told the *Daily* that he regretted Tufts’ inability to influence shifts in the roles of the chaplains, saying, “We can write letters, but there’s not really too much you can bring to the table when [an outside source] is paying our chaplains — there’s a missing principle of leverage.”

Homeland Security Comes to the Hill

In the past two years, Tufts’ religious

community has also witnessed the development of a new interfaith initiative, Pathways, headed by two consultants, Shai Fuxman and Najiba Akbar. The initiative was launched as part of a five-campus grant by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) intended to experiment with models for interfaith dialogue at colleges and universities.

Pathways sponsors two classes at the Ex College, as well as retreats and other events dealing with the personal aspects of religion and with the connection between religion and political conflict. Originally, said Fuxman, the program centered on the three Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It soon expanded, however, to include representatives from all the religions on campus, and even atheists, in its Multifaith Council.

According to Fuxman, the goal of the project is to “promote tolerance between people of different religions and to reduce

prejudice.” More specifically, he said, “the idea also is whenever tensions arise between people of different religions, to address them, or even, to take a step back, to have these conversations so that these types of tensions don’t start in the first place.”

Rabbi Summit, who has received research grants from the DHS, explained that the program might have been motivated partly in response to a number of terrorist plots, including the 2005 London bombings, arising out of universities. “And I think why we got Homeland Security involved, was because they wanted to see that there were different ways to build a civil society where certain groups did not feel like their only recourse was a violent recourse,” he said.

However, Pathways does not specifically aim to reduce terrorism, noted Fuxman and Akbar. “We don’t come into Tufts’ campus every day thinking that there might be a ter-

“ If students are **serious** about dialogue, they should not close their **ears** and their **minds**. ”

rorist among us that we need to prevent,” said Fuxman. “I think the idea is more to promote a certain culture in which people are talking to each other and understand each other, which would prevent any kind of violence.”

Shirwac Mohamed, co-chair of the Muslim Student Association, said he was concerned that much of what Pathways was doing might be preaching to the choir. “It’s difficult because all the people who are involved in interfaith work already want to reach peaceful coexistence,” he explained. While many of the organization’s activities have been productive, he said, “When you talk to someone, like...everyone who’s in interfaith work, or anyone who’s in the religious departments, you talk about these things, and very quickly you reach, ‘Yes, that’s exactly what I’m saying. OK, we agree.’ But the main issue is the people who are not involved in these type of works.”

Fuxman and Akbar, as well as others involved in the work, acknowledged that this was a real issue. “It is a challenge,” said Fuxman, “but it’s a challenge we can overcome and that we have been trying to overcome.” He said that by creating more diverse and engaging programming, and by enlisting active students to convince their co-religionists to become involved, he and Akbar hoped to

reach a wider segment of campus in order to more effectively fulfill their objectives.

Terms of Debate

Still, despite the optimism of campus religious leaders, the university has faced a number of episodes highlighting religious tension over the years. Rabbi Summit recalled the press wars waged by student groups after the outbreak of the first Palestinian intifada. According to Celeste Codington-Lacerte from the Protestant Student Fellowship, “A couple years ago, specific holiday greetings on the cannon were defaced and there was evidence that it had been done by members of another faith.”

More recently, the *Primary Source* drew controversy in October when it sponsored an event featuring Dr. Daniel Pipes, an author, columnist, and commentator on Middle Eastern affairs (full disclosure: this reporter also serves as managing editor for international affairs at the *Source*). This event was part of Islamofascism Awareness Week, a series of lectures and protests launched by conservative activist David Horowitz.

In response to concerns about the event, and especially the term “Islamofascism,” which critics charge is offensive because they say it associates the religion of Islam with fascism, Pathways held a dis-

cussion with students in order to “come up with ideas with how they can express their concerns, you know, in a civilized manner, as should happen at an academic institution.” They decided to “set the tone” for the talk by holding up signs that read, “This is a hate-free campus” at the beginning of the event. All of the chaplains and religious organizations, as well as several other student groups, endorsed the signs.

Fuxman insisted that the signs, unlike a caustic flyer widely disseminated by the Tufts Coalition Opposed to the War in Iraq and the Faculty Progressive Alliance, did not represent a protest against Dr. Pipes, but merely an expression of solidarity with the Muslim Student Association, which strongly objected to the use of the word “Islamofascism.”

However, not all those involved in the demonstration limited their disapproval to the label of the event. Reverend O’Leary, who was photographed outside the lecture with a sign reading “Hate debases people, love embraces,” said, “Knowing who [Dr. Pipes] was and what he said before, I know I didn’t want to hear it...I didn’t think that was a message that needed to be spread.” Shirwac Mohamed claimed Dr. Pipes considered non-religious Muslims the only progressive, moderate Muslims. “That’s very divisive, and



ZACH WITLIN



ZACH WITLIN

that's basically creating more problems than it's solving," he said.

Amy Spitalnick, the student president of Tufts Hillel, though, called Dr. Pipes "a really well-respected academic that has really important things to contribute to the conversation." She said she was "really excited to hear what he had to say, whether or not I agreed with it," despite her view that the "Islamofascism" label "inhibited dialogue, and really was not a way to foster an equal, fair dialogue on campus."

Rabbi Summit said he had spoken to Dr. Pipes before the event to assure him that the demonstration was not targeted at him. He even said that Hillel could have brought Dr. Pipes to speak. He also noted that unlike other events during Islamofascism Awareness Week, there were no disruptions or heckling. "I mean, I come from the 1960s," he said. "That's a pretty tame protest."

Unfortunately, as Hosein, the Muslim chaplain, observed, "I felt people came there with their positions already made, and I don't think anybody left there enlightened one way or another, to see his point of view or to see the other point of view of Muslims." Whether or not this closed-mindedness was the fault of Dr. Pipes, the event's organizers, or its protesters remains itself a point of contention.

Faith and Consequences

No article about religion on the Hill would be complete without a mention of atheism, which has enjoyed a revival in recent years led by the likes of biologist Richard Dawkins, polemicist Christopher Hitchens, and Tufts' own professor of philosophy Dan Dennett. In November, the Freethought Society (formerly known as the Secular Student Association) sponsored a debate between Professor Dennett and Christian author Dinesh D'Souza, which was attended by almost 600 people. According to the group's president, Patrick Andriola, "Thirty percent of Tufts students describe themselves as 'non-religious,' and really, they need to come out and be heard more."

For the moment, though, students and faculty in the more traditional religious community still have plenty to talk about. The question is whether that talk will be meaningful. Already, speech on religion is somewhat restricted. As Reverend O'Leary pointed out, all student religious organizations are required not to "attempt to convert and engage in the act of 'winning people over' or challenging the belief or lack thereof of any member of the Tufts University family." He also said that in the university's efforts to determine the limits it would impose on the freedom of expression in the wake of last

year's debate over the *Source's* Christmas carol on affirmative action and feature on radical Islam, his position was that "we should be paying more attention to people's feelings instead of asking if it's lawful or not."

But in an open society, should people not be able to argue about what they believe is true and what they believe is false, even on subjects as weighty as the existence of God and as taboo as the violent content of scripture? Religion is something of a sacred cow at Tufts, and perhaps a healthy sensitivity is necessary for such a divisive topic. A fear of hurt feelings, though, must not prevent a free flow of ideas.

If the university does not quickly resolve the legal and financial quarrels of its chaplains, they will not be able to remain effective not only in serving their constituencies, but in helping them to engage with one another. If the interfaith work underway is to achieve success in tackling the vital issues of religious conflict, it cannot shy away from the politically incorrect. And if students are serious about dialogue, they should not close their ears and their minds to a respected speaker on the grounds of opposing "hate."

An honest discussion, whether on religion or anything else, requires just two things: the ability to speak, and the willingness to listen. ☺



TUfts Dining Services

BY LOREN AUSTEN

As the sun rises on a quiet Saturday morning at Tufts University, you can find most of the student body asleep. Aside from the occasional runner laboring up Professors Row or the truly dedicated partier similarly dragging himself uphill, the vast majority of Tufts finds these early hours to be a time of much needed respite. Of course, not all is quiet at Tufts. Already Tufts Dining Services (TUDS) and Tufts Catering are preparing for the day ahead. Work begins in the Carmichael kitchens at 6 a.m. and at Tufts Catering at seven. An average day for Tufts Catering includes the facilitation of around 12 events, although during commencement week the number is closer to 40. TUDS handles enough food for 4,982 hungry mouths. While we may dedicate a lot of thought to what's on our plates, what's often overlooked is how it got there.

Although Tufts' dining halls are consistently highly ranked in college surveys, if you ask around there seems to be a general dissatisfaction with the dining services. From such urban legends as laxatives and cockroach eggs in the stir-fry at Carmichael to more realistic complaints about a four-dollar yogurt from Hodgdon, Tufts students are decidedly critical of the food set out for them. It's the age of the organic, so when lunch is ribwiches and smiley fries, there is sure to be some degree of disappointment. Part of the doctrine of the church of Whole Foods is a move towards local and fair trade products — both of which speak to an appreciation of where the food you eat

is coming from.

"You do get told how much you are appreciated at this job," said Shameer Nazeer, an employee of Tufts Catering. A native of Guyana, Nazeer has lived in the United States for the past 16 years, but has only recently come to work at Tufts. After graduating from the University of Massachusetts, Nazeer returned to Guyana where he "fell in love with, and married [his] wife." Working to sponsor his wife's immigration, Mr. Nazeer chose not to continue his career in consulting, opting instead for the flexibility to travel to and from Guyana offered in catering. "My parents cater here in the summer, and everyone knows them — this job is really just about service and working with people," he said.

Among the first faces that students encounter when entering Carmichael dining hall are the card swipers. Linda, one such employee, has been working at TUDS for the past sixteen years. "I've been here for eight years, and before that I worked as a line girl inside," she noted. Far from being tired of her job, Linda said that she loves working at Tufts. "It's about seeing the students every day... everyone is so friendly," she added, smiling. "Of course you get the occasional grumpy one, but if you're friendly, they will be friendly back. You get out of this job what you put in."

Felicia Lartey, a member of Tufts Catering, however, has had a very different experience. "I could write a thesis about the bad manners of Fletcher students," she opined. Tufts Catering — the headquarters of which is located behind Mugar Hall at the Fletcher School

— is in charge of providing refreshments to the multitude of panel discussions, speakers, and formal events that occur everyday at the school and other venues. Ms. Lartey, who has been supporting herself and paying for her own education since the age of 16, added that Fletcher students "want everything on a silver platter."

Lartey recalled numerous occasions on which students have made overtly condescending demands of her. Many, she notes, will exclaim that "my parents paid \$50,000 to send me to school here," in conjunction with their demands for service. Lartey joked that perhaps that tuition money should have been used for enrollment in a school of manners instead of one of diplomacy. Nazeer also noted that he had "occasionally run into rude people," but shrugged it off, saying that "you can just see if you can meet their needs."

One former student TUDS employee, who spoke on conditions of anonymity, felt that working in the Carmichael kitchens was "degrading." "I would call in sick because I hated it," he said, adding "that it was embarrassing." "You're doing the dishes and the floor is always covered in water and food slime — if I ever saw anyone I knew they would make fun of me." The best part of the job, he says, was the people with whom he worked. "I worked with mostly high school students... very 'Medford-y,'" he said, laughing. "They were really nice, really funny." He concluded by saying that, "I really just didn't understand the kind of job TUDS was doing every day." ☉





An Interview with President Lawrence S. Bacow

SAMUEL DUPONT

For the *Observer's* annual presidential interview, editors Daniel Rosen and Joshua Ashheim sat down with Lawrence Bacow to cover a number of issues, from the Greek system to campus safety.

Tufts Education

The Observer: What does a Tufts education mean? What do you hope students will get out of Tufts when they graduate?

President Bacow: John Dewey once said "Education is not preparation for life, it is life itself," so I hope that when a student comes to Tufts they will get more than preparation for a job or a career. They will develop their intellect, they will develop a lifelong passion for learning, they will come to appreciate who they are, and what role they might place as a constructive member of society. That's why we believe that all our students should be active citizens. If you go back to the original conception of education... education was created to educate citizens about democracy. I sometimes worry

that we have lost sight of that. Education is both investment and consumption. Investment in the sense that you come to college to get a degree because it will enhance the present value of your future. But education is also consumption. There are certain things you study not because they will earn you more money in the future but because they are going to make you a more interesting person. You study them because they are going to help you understand the world in ways you would not otherwise understand. You study them because they will enrich your life. That's why most people study art, literature, music, philosophy. I want to make sure that when students graduate from here they understand what that's about. It's not just about that you

hope you have a job when you graduate. It's more than just that.

O: What progress has the university made in its goal of increasing financial aid awards?

B: We have made enormous progress. The class we just admitted was the most socio-economically diverse class in history. We have record numbers of students both on financial aid and in the neediest categories of financial aid, and that's something I'm proud of. I'm proud of it because these are academically gifted and talented students who in the past we would not have been able to admit because we couldn't afford to help them. This is no longer the case. The campaign has had a

tremendous impact on this. We're not done yet. There is more work to do. This class would have looked very different if we had the financial aid resources we did five years ago.

I don't think students want to see Tufts turned into a police state.

Greek System

O: The Greek system at Tufts has seen a number of controversies over the last few years. How do you view the system?

B: The problems that the Greek system are experiencing are entirely self-inflicted and I know that the committee that imposes sanctions against the Greek organizations has heavy representation on it by members of the Greek system so its self-regulating. It's not the administration that is trying to get rid of the Greek system, its fellow Greeks who are saying 'you have rules and you pledged to follow them and you didn't'. This is not our problem, its' your problem. The sooner that the houses accept responsibility for their own actions, the sooner we will have a better Greek system.

O: So you would say you are disappointed with the current situation?

B: I would say I am disappointed anytime people say they are going to do one thing but do another. I don't think that is what it means to be a responsible member of the community. Whether we are talking about a member of a fraternity or a sorority or any other student group or any individual, being part of a community means agreeing to abide by the rules of the community. People join the Greek system voluntarily and when they do so they take a pledge. That pledge stipulates that members agree to follow the rules and regulations of Tufts, individual houses, and national organizations, and that members follow the values of the Greek system, including leadership, responsibility, and service to the community. When people don't live up to their own pledge the system is holding them accountable to that, and I am disappointed when such things happen.

Crime On Campus

O: Simply put, crime on campus is a problem. What is the university doing to address the problem?

B: First, I would like to note that Adele and I live on this campus. We walk around the campus ourselves, individually and collectively, and at night. We live in the same environment as our students. We exercise the same kind of prudent caution that we have used everywhere we have lived. If you're going to live in an

urban area, whether it is on a college campus or elsewhere, one has to be cautious, especially if you are going to be out late at night. We take crime when it occurs very seriously, but I would be lying to you if I told you that for an open campus in an urban area we are capable of protecting students against any incidents of crime.

O: You can't protect everyone, but is TUPD doing all it can to protect students? Are there enough resources to adequately address the problem?

B: The economist in me wants to come back to you and ask, what's adequate? I don't think students want to see Tufts turned into a police state. I don't think students want to turn and see a police cruiser on every corner of this campus or encounter a policeman at 2 a.m. walking down every street. That kind of police presence is not conducive to the kind of community I think our students want to live in. Students want to live in a place that feels safe, which is where police do not have a large presence but students know that if they need the police TUPD will be there. If you take a look at our response time to events, if someone says they need the police, the police are there very quickly. Also, a lot of the recent crimes have not occurred on campus itself, but have occurred off campus several blocks away. The university cannot be responsible for every potential criminal act that can occur. We have put on extra patrols when there have been events and the perpetrators escaped, and in fact we helped to apprehend somebody not too long

Undergrad Life On Campus

O: Next year record numbers of Juniors and Seniors will be living off campus. Does the absence of upperclassmen living on campus detract from the undergraduate community?

B: I think Tufts would be a better place if we were able to house all of our students on campus. We're not there and we're not going to be there in my lifetime. Part of what has gone on this year is that we have a larger number of expected rising sophomores. During my time we have built a new dormitory exclusively for seniors so we try to pull them in out of the neighborhoods and we are trying to create more housing that is attractive to seniors. However, we are land constrained. Additionally, in my conversations with students they have said that they would like to have housing guaranteed for all four years but not be required to live in that housing.

O: Are there plans to expand the campus in the near future?

B: We try to be very respectful of our host communities. We went through a master planning process several years ago in which we looked at the land resources we have today and we think we can accommodate the growth of the campus. We already own enough land to accommodate the buildings that we know we are going to have to build in the foreseeable future. However, this is not enough to build sufficient dormitory space to house every undergraduate on campus. That has never been a goal.



ago in the area off of Winthrop. We actually do very good police work. Unlike many campus police forces TUPD officers are armed, have gone through a very rigorous training program. Unlike many campus police forces, they have been certified. I think we have a terrific campus police, does that mean that there will never be a crime on campus? No.

Most of you elected to go to Tufts because it was located in an urban area. You didn't want to go to school in the hills of Vermont or in Western Mass some place — this is part of the deal. I'm not saying I'm happy

public service. Are students receptive to these initiatives?

B: You'd be better judges than I would. What we've seen is that more students come to Tufts in part because of our commitment to educate active, engaged, effective citizens. I've been delighted with the growth in certain organizations, like the Leonard Carmichael Society, the Greek system, Hillel, and other religious groups. The senate sponsored a variety of different activities that supported our community. I was in New Orleans with the Clinton Global Initiative and Tufts had one of the largest stu-

function space on campus and responded.

O: Tufts University encompasses far more than its undergraduate colleges on the Medford campus. Can you tell me about the goals for Tufts' graduate schools?

B: So, I'm sometimes asked what my job is, if I had to say it in a nutshell, my job is to work with others to enhance the scholarly reputation of Tufts. That means teaching and research: to the extent that we do both of those better, we are a better place. So that's my job university wide. It's also the job of every dean of every

“There are certain things you study not because they will earn you more money in the future but because they are going to make you a more interesting person.”

about the crime, but it is a reality of living in an urban area.

O: With institutions like the Tisch College, Tufts University attempts to place an emphasis on active citizenship and

dent delegations there. When I was there Scott Cowen, my counterpart at Tulane, thanked me for the work of our students and in some cases our faculty who have been down there continuing to lend their assistance years after Katrina. I'm very pleased with the progress we've made.

school — each school should constantly be improving. They should constantly improve teaching, research, service, and strengthen the environment that supports great teaching and scholarship. So the answer to your question is yes, we want to enhance the reputation of all of our schools. Do we want to enhance the size of them? In most cases, no, but in a few cases, yes. We know that in at least two professions, medicine and dentistry, there will be a shortage of physicians and dentists over the next 15 to 20 years, purely a function of demographics. When baby-boomers retire, it's not as if they're going to stop needing medical and dental care. Medical organizations have issued a call to increase class size, we are trying to be responsive to the needs of society.



Future Of Tufts

O: Can you talk briefly about future construction plans on Tufts' various campuses?

B: At the vet school we're building a new campus center, a new physical diagnosis and simulation clinic at the med school and we're building an addition to the dental tower at the dental school. On this campus we're doing the Doble Lab and improvements to the athletic facilities which will be the Steve Tisch Sports and Fitness Center. We're also renovating Packard Hall and the old Sacred Heart church — it will be function space available to students and others for a variety of purposes. It will work well for a theatrical performance, for a lecture, for a large meeting; we've listened to people who've said that we need more

O: If you could do anything with unlimited resources, what would you do?

B: It's not very interesting solving an optimization problem if you remove the budget concern. With unlimited resources we could do unlimited things so that's not an interesting thing. With finite, incremental resources, where do you invest them? We just answered that today. We put the money into support for students and for faculty. We build buildings only because they provide a nutrient rich scholarly environment. It's all about attracting, supporting, maintaining, and nurturing the very best students and the very best faculty. When the day comes there'll be plenty to do when my successor takes over, because I think that's the job of every president of a university, always keep the momentum going. ☺

Olympic Flame Doused by Controversy

BY MARYSA LIN

Protestors and demonstrators severely tested the 3,000 officer strong-French police force in Paris on April 7th as the Olympic flame and its accompanying torchbearers were repeatedly attacked in the name of a plethora of causes involving China. The symbolic flame was extinguished at least three times as demonstrators flooded the streets and caused the athletes to board a bus for the last portion of their journey for their own safety. Hosting the 2008 Summer Olympics in China has stirred up significant protest, much of which is based on the inconsistencies between China's human rights records and the values of the Olympics.

Activists around the world have been using the Olympics to draw attention to China's treatment of Tibet, Falun Gong practitioners, various minority groups, Taiwan, and especially China's relationship with the Khartoum regime in the Sudan, where a conflict in the Darfur region has caused an estimated 200,000 deaths and internally displaced about 2.5 million people. Human rights activists, nationalists, minorities, and journalists are among many groups that have been trying to use the Olympics as a spotlight to promote their cause as well as leverage to demand behavior changes in China, which imports about two-thirds of all Sudanese oil (500,000 barrels a day) and is widely believed to be Sudan's largest arms supplier.

While China has taken small steps to placate international critics, such as sending \$2.8 million more aid, appointing Liu Guijin as its first ever envoy for African Affairs, sending a small peacekeeping unit that includes many military engineers, and helping to pass the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1769, Dream for Darfur and other activists groups, such as Save Darfur, say it is not enough. Relative to the amount of trade Beijing conducts with Khartoum, which totaled \$3.9 billion last year, the new aid seems relatively little. Furthermore, after helping to pass UNSC Resolution 1769, which authorized a joint UN-AU peacekeeping force of 26,000 in Darfur, critics accuse China of using its Security Council veto to strip the resolution of strong sanctions and threats for noncompliance. Human Rights

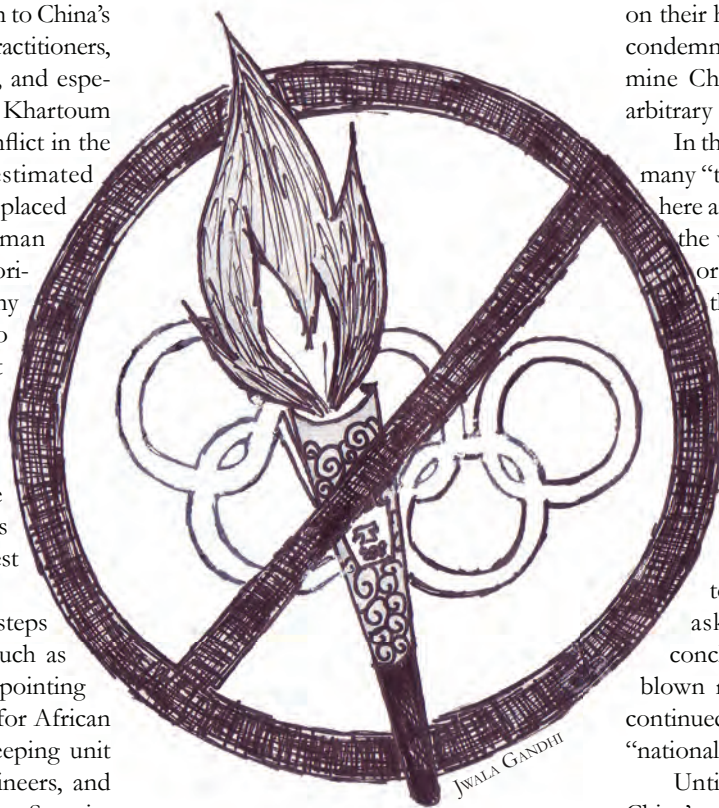
Watch is encouraging world leaders to defer accepting invitations to the Olympics until Beijing makes concrete improvements to its human rights record, which encompasses a wide range of abuses.

Alan Wachman, Associate Professor of International Politics at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, explained that while China does care about international opinion, it is far from guaranteed that Beijing will cave to public pressure. "People who follow China's policy towards Sudan closely have already noted some efforts...but undoubtedly these will be seen as too little too late," Wachman continued. "When an external critic points its finger at China, the first response...is to deny the responsibility and to criticize the critic," Wachman explained. "As the pressure

critics." Wachman provided the international opposition to China's bid to in 1993 to host the 2000 Games as one example Chinese policymakers cite of Western intervention for the sake of badmouthing China and not for the humanitarian advancements they advocate. International critics, most notably the United States Congress, sought to condemn China's 1989 behavior in Tiananmen Square and successfully fought against China's bid. Among the Chinese public, "there was a tremendous sense of betrayal by foreign critics who were blamed for interfering," Wachman said. But, as the issues of Tiananmen have now been replaced with protests over their support for the Sudanese government with no real improvement regarding Tiananmen's underlying issues, China sees demands based on their humanitarian record not as a moral condemnation but more as a ploy to undermine China's international reputation for arbitrary reasons.

In the Chinese press, Wachman said that many "think that there is a double standard here and that China is not being treated in the way that Western Europe or Japan or the United States is being treated, that it's being singled out." Wachman believes that if China's policies and attitudes are to change for the better, it is unlikely to happen in the public glare, but rather behind the scenes, "in bargains or threats or quieter efforts...to give the PRC incentives." "If you don't give them incentives and expect them to respond to threats, then all you're asking for is defiance," Wachman concluded. While he does not think full blown nationalism will be a response to continued criticism, he does think a surge of "national chauvinism" is highly possible.

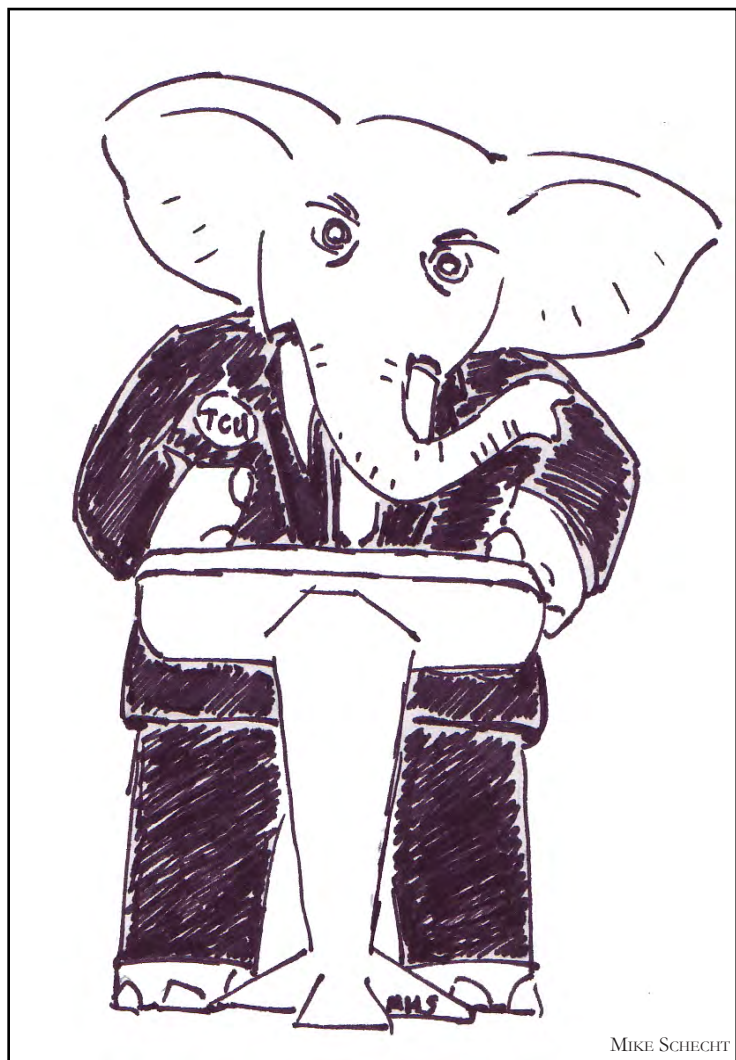
Until the protestors are satisfied with China's response or the uproar dies down, the Olympic torchbearers fear they must continue to tread carefully for the flame's remaining 58-day long trip over 85,000 miles through 21 countries. It is uncertain whether debates over the politicization of the 2008 Olympics will be settled any time soon. In San Francisco, the torch's next stop after Paris, giant banners that read "One World, One Dream" and "Free Tibet" were hung on the Golden Gate Bridge while the flame was graced with a much calmer, less eventful welcome in Buenos Aires and Dar es Salaam. ☉



persists...the PRC has a tendency to respond in an instrumental way," which Wachman described as doing just enough to show that it is responsive and to get critics to desist.

According to Wachman, one of the many reasons that China is reluctant to cave to public pressure about its involvement (or lack thereof) in Darfur is that China is convinced that "critics are not really concerned about Sudan or Tibet, that what they're really aiming at is to besmirch China's reputation and no matter what China does, there will be

On the Trail with TCU Presidential Candidates



BY BRENDAN JOHANSEN

With the Pennsylvania primaries looming around the corner, most political aficionados have their eyes glued to CNN and Gallup polls. Another election, however, is also around the bend, this one hitting much closer to home and potentially impacting the Tufts community far more than the race for the White House. With the elections for Tufts Community Union (TCU) President upon us, *The Observer* took a moment to meet with each candidate and discuss their platforms, positions, and attitudes toward life

at Tufts. This year, there are three students running for the august position: sophomores Duncan Pickard and Constance “C.J.” Mourning, and junior Elton Sykes. Each brings unique potential to the race, and their individual stories and credentials offer bright, if different, plans to move the community forward.

Constance Mourning, an as-yet-undecided sophomore from San Francisco, CA, believes that she has a great sense of what students need, and through her work on the Senate, has a clear understanding of the strengths and shortcomings of life here on campus, as well as

faults within the Senate itself. Since joining the Senate her freshman year, Mourning has served on the Allocations Board, and currently serves as the Services Committee Chair. Mourning cited her extensive and strong relationships with university administrators, as well as her own personal drive and dedication, as necessary tools that will allow her to most effectively serve as TCU President. Outside the Senate, Mourning is heavily involved in National Student Partnerships and the Leonard Carmichael Society; experiences which, she argued, give her insight not only into life here at Tufts, but

into the positive roles that Tufts students can have in the university’s host communities as well. She is a tour guide for the admissions office as well, and works as a Senior Events Coordinator.

Part of Mourning’s platform includes championing a campaign towards greater university support for students. While recognizing the many support systems already in place on campus, Mourning insisted that Tufts can still do more to better its students’ college experience. She aims to work with various offices and students groups on campus to truly help students realize their full potential while undergraduates. Mourning also cited the complaint of many students about a general lack of Tufts spirit, and said that in order for students to attain such a spirit, they first need to feel a greater sense of investment in the university. To achieve this, Mourning wants to improve living spaces here on campus, stating that, “Our dorms should be good enough for a Tufts administrator to feel comfortable staying in, and sadly that’s not the case right now.” She also plans to work on keeping more social spaces open later into the evening, stating that the new and improved Houghton is a great first step, but should not be the last.

Duncan Pickard, a history and American studies major from Oak Bluffs, MA, touts his extensive leadership experience as his outstanding credential. On campus, Pickard has served on the TCU Senate since his first year, holding various positions on the Allocations Board, Executive Board, Cultural, Ethnicity, and Community Affairs Committee, as well as sitting on the TCU Judiciary Board. According to Pickard, this diverse view of the many roles of the Senate gives him a unique perspective of the many services the organization provides. In addition to his extensive work within the TCU Senate, he also holds leadership positions within the Tisch College and the Synaptic Scholars program. Through these two organiza-

“The Senate must still work to keep all student groups and years interested and involved in the institutions that impact their school.”



COURTESY OF ELTON SYKES

tions, Pickard works to, as he asserted, “find the intersections of intellectualism and social life on campus.”

Pickard stated that the overarching goal of his campaign and, if elected, his presidency, is to unite the campus. According to Pickard, “Tufts should be a place that fosters relationships and programs that better the lives of its students during their time at Tufts and beyond. I believe that we can improve Tufts together and enhance the sense of community that makes this school great.” This policy goal, however, comes in the wake of a TCU-administered student survey, which ranked “an improved sense of community” as the lowest priority among students, according to the April 11 issue of the *Tufts Daily*. Perhaps more interesting to students is the “blinder system” that Pickard envisions. Pickard argued

that many students do not feel comfortable calling TEMS for alcohol-related emergencies for fear of judicial consequences. According to Pickard, medical health should trump illegal action, and officers responding to emergency calls should not be compelled to report underage drinking if there is a more serious crisis at hand.

Elton Sykes, the lone junior on the ballot this year, is a Chicago native majoring in political Science. Sykes cited his longer time here at Tufts as his major advantage over the other senators. Sykes decided to run for the Senate in order to improve the overall undergraduate experience here at Tufts. In addition to serving on the Senate, Sykes has worked as a Resident Assistant for the past two years, which he claimed gives him a unique insight into the constraints faced by officials in the Office of Residential Life and Learning. Sykes argued that these constraints cannot act as perpetual excuses, and if elected president, he vows to work with the offices of Facilities and Residential Life to improve the living situation for students living on campus. Sykes also wants to improve the on-campus social life, explaining that social programs are lacking in quality, not quantity.

Sykes hopes that the Senate will take a more proactive role in a number

of areas. In addition to hoping to address social life problems, Sykes wants to work to bring greater student attention and participation to sporting events around campus. According to Sykes, the problem is not a lack of interest, but a lack of knowledge. While working for TUTV, Sykes noticed that well-advertised sporting events often attract large numbers of student spectators, while those that

are not as well publicized often see no student attention at all. In order to increase student interest in sports teams, Sykes wants to see greater emphasis placed on Homecoming, with a pep rally and bonfire the night before the actual game.

All three candidates highlight campus security as a major concern of their campaign. Each advocates for an improved “safe ride” program that will allow students to travel between on- and off-campus houses, and will protect students from the criticism of their TUPD escorts — a source of consternation for many us-



COURTESY OF C.J. MOURNING

ers of the current scheme. All candidates agree that this program, whether student or staff-run, must be coordinated through the Office of Public Safety.

Another important question that the future president should seek to tackle is the lack of involvement among the rising junior class. While both Pickard and Mourning, senators from that year, point to the difficulty of getting juniors headed for programs abroad and houses off campus interested in on-campus life, the Senate must still work to keep all student groups and years interested and involved in the institutions that impact their school.

Although each candidate espouses different policies, their leadership potential is a testament to their initiative and a credit to the student body. ☺



COURTESY OF DUNCAN PICKARD

A Call for Dialogue

As pursuers of higher education, Tufts students ought to balance an exposure to unfamiliar points of view with a healthy skepticism of their own beliefs. From literature to science, politics to religion, understanding the weaknesses of a firmly held opinion and the strengths of an opposing argument only augment one's own understanding of a subject. Held to this standard, the religious discourse on campus has failed to adequately engage community members and to address matters that affect believers and non-believers alike. The parameters of the debate and the body of the participants must branch out if religious groups at Tufts are to serve as not only a guiding force for the faithful, but also as a medium for deliberation about faith's role and place in society.

Nonetheless, one should not conclude that religious dialogue at Tufts is lacking. As this week's feature article describes, recent initiatives have sought to bring religion to the forefront. Pathways, an interfaith alliance formed with the help of Department of Homeland Security grants, hopes to provide greater insight into the connection between religion and political conflict. Last fall, religious-themed programs featuring Middle East scholar Daniel Pipes, philosophy professor Daniel Dennett, and Christian author Dinesh D'Souza garnered great publicity and many attendees.

While some groups protested the appearance of Dr. Pipes because of his views of Islam, others felt that he provided a unique perspective that challenged the

conventional thinking on the Hill. Whether one agrees or disagrees with Dr. Pipes (or Professor Dennett or Mr. D'Souza for that matter), clashing opinions and a diversity of thought are the foundation of a dynamic exchange of views. The problem, as religious leaders on campus readily admit, is that much of these initiatives are failing to draw in diverse perspectives. Shirwac

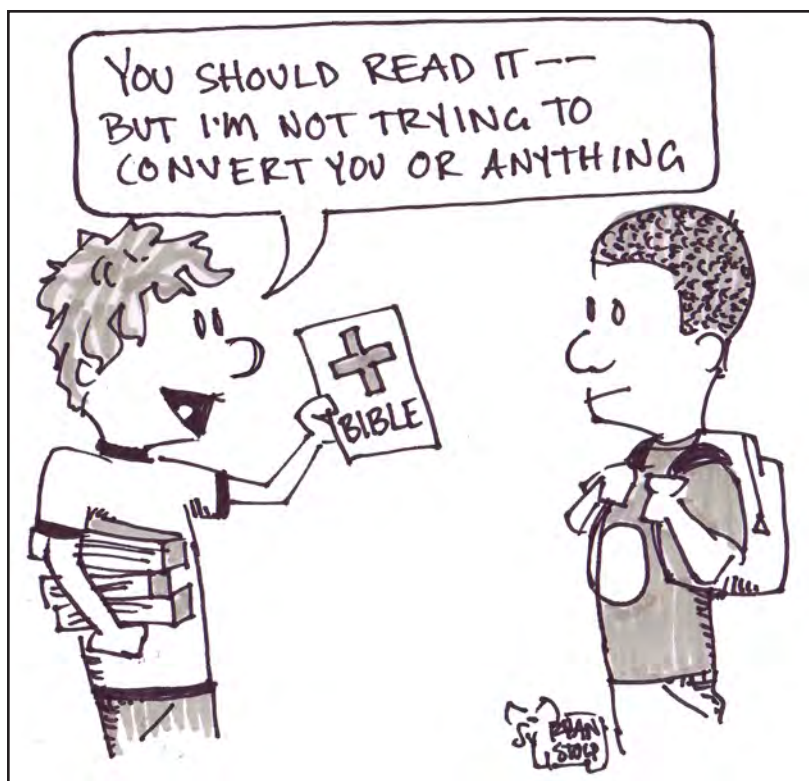
ing that no one left "enlightened one way or another, to see [Pipes'] point of view or to see the other point of view of Muslims."

Measures to involve a greater proportion of the Tufts community in religious discussion are limited. Speech on religion is somewhat restricted, as all student religious organizations are required not to "attempt to convert and engage in the act

of 'winning people over' or challenge the belief or lack thereof of any member of the Tufts University family." The lingering effects of the *Primary Source* Christmas carol scandal, and the *Observer's* own controversial cartoon from 2005 featuring a smoking Pope, might make some students anxious to express opinions that go against the mainstream thought.

The difficulty of our current task should not forestall its completion. Over the past year, this editorial page has stated its belief that an education is greatly enhanced by an academic environment that challenges the deepest convictions of its students. Most of the time, the administration and faculty should take the lead

in cultivating such an atmosphere. In the case of religious discourse, however, only the student body is capable of ensuring that issues of religion and faith remain an encompassing, stimulating, and necessary component of campus conversation. It is the opinion of the *Observer* that students have the obligation to ask hard questions, to tackle divisive problems, and to engage in difficult discussions. Anything less, and we all collectively fail as scholars, and more importantly, as members of a community. ☉



RYAN STOLP

Mohamed, co-chair of the Muslim Student Association, describes how the main issue is not attracting the people who are likely to get involved, but rather seeking out those "who are not involved in these types of works."

In addition, students often lack the open mind to listen to divergent views free from preconceived notions or biases. The possible value of the Dr. Pipes lecture, in the eyes of Tufts' Muslim chaplain Shareeda Hosein, was lost when "people came there with their positions already made," ensur-

Humanitarianism Pro Bono

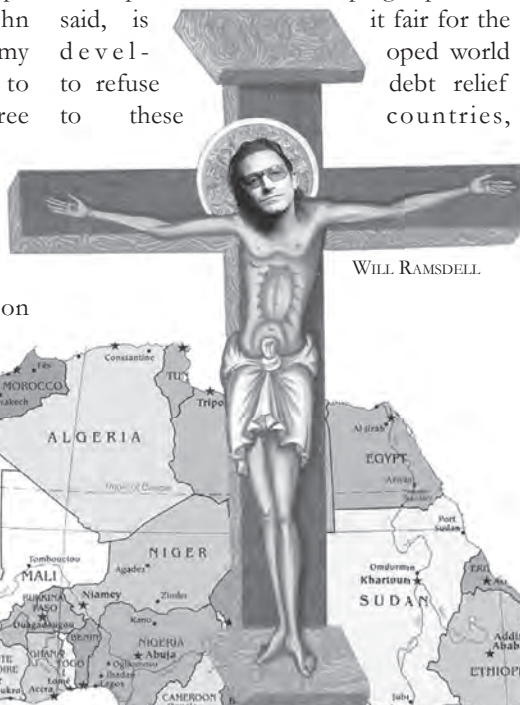
BY JAMIE GREENBERG

When I Look At The World, Bono, rock star and current humanitarian crusader, has always been a subject of personal conflict. I admit that when Bono became person of the year in 2005 along with Melinda and Bill Gates, joining such figures as Pope John Paul II, Martin Luther King Jr., John Fitzgerald Kennedy, and Bill Clinton, my first reaction was that we really need to stop encouraging him. However, three years later, I'm rethinking this. Bono became involved with Africa in 1984 during that year's Live Aid Concert and intensified this involvement with his push for African debt relief in 2000. Twenty-four years and forty billion dollars of debt relief later, no one can accuse him of dabbling in humanitarianism: Bono is looking for Peace And Love Or Else, and like him or not, he's here to stay.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the world's lost continent, Running To Stand Still and even drifting backwards in terms of GDP, education and life expectancy, while the rest of the world moves forward. For these countries of tiny GDPs and tinier markets, capitalism is largely marching on without them. It's easy to see Africa as a homogenous mass of suffering, a continent of famine, HIV/AIDS and genocide victims. It's easy to support Bono's cause of debt relief by the world's richest nations of the world's poorest. It's easy to see the issue as right and wrong, Night and Day. But in reality, it's far more complex.

Ideally, debt relief frees countries from their crushing foreign arrears and allows their money to go towards health care, development and education. In reality, debt relief in many instances would and has forgiven the huge sums of money already embezzled by corrupt governments, and freed up more capital for misappropriation:

because the inescapable and unpalatable truth is that Africa is not just the blameless victim of a culprit-free crime. All too often, money for development, health care and education is withheld from Africans by their own governments, as it instead goes into offshore accounts and finances personal mansions and overseas shopping trips. That is not fair for the developed world to refuse to help these countries,



making their citizens continue to pay the price for governmental corruption? Yet with hypothetical debt relief, there is no reason other than naive optimism to tell us that that embezzlement will not carry on. It seems the majority of African citizens will suffer either way: With Or Without You (and Western aid and debt forgiveness).

The odds against Africa aren't only arrayed from within, however, but also from without, and here Bono's crusade becomes easier to buy into. Africa is fighting from behind: what with the legacy of colonialism and economically-crippling IMF standards; the short end of the capitalist stick in terms of per-capita income, inflation, and purchasing power; blatant resource exploitation of the West (read blood diamonds and Nigerian oil); and unaffordable patented medication for its HIV/AIDS epidemic, Africa has been wronged time and time again. Sometimes You Can't Make It On Your Own, and without Western aid, Africa probably can't either.

Nor is Bono fighting for his adopted cause as though the The Saints Are Coming to Africa. His appeals to America and other Western countries have been on the grounds that this is "a financial and security issue," not an emotional one. And he apparently knows what he's talking about, and has the star power to talk about it with people who have the political power to do something about it. If absolutely nothing else, he's made Africa's problems fashionable and brought them into the public consciousness, and in our image-driven political world, that's One Step Closer to some sort of action. Not too shabby for a man for whom the "right to be ridiculous is something [he] hold[s]...dear."

However professional and informed Bono may be, is it naive to think that he, or indeed anyone else, can actually do anything for Africa? Some countries simply don't have sufficient resources for a sustainable economy even if all debts are relieved, HIV/AIDS would not cease to be an issue for Africa even if treatment were made available to all patients today, and corruption will continue to swallow foreign aid money. To say that Africa is a hopeless case is overly pessimistic and fatalistic, but neither are there any easy or immediate solutions — even if we all listen to Bono and buy Product Red.

We can't say outright that The Dream Is Over, but it will definitely have to wait for Another Day, and for other, more nuanced, solutions. ☹

Jamie Greenberg is a freshman who has not yet declared a major. She is from Zimbabwe, where, because street signs are stolen for hard-to-find metal, the streets actually have no names.

Buying International Support: Blackwater USA and the Use of Private Contractors in Iraq

BY ALEXANDRA SIEGEL

Over the past five years, President Bush has gone to great lengths to reassure Americans that we are not fighting the war in Iraq alone. However, although Bush likes to brag about his “Coalition of the Willing,” he seems less interested in advertising the support of privately contracted mercenaries — what Brookings Institute Scholar Peter Singer calls the “Coalition of the Billing.”

While the Bush Administration is certainly desperate for international support, it was probably a good PR move to downplay the presence of privately contracted soldiers in Iraq. After all, it's pretty difficult to win hearts and minds when former war criminals and destitute third world veterans are the ones carrying our alleged fight for freedom and democracy. This practice of hiring mercenaries not only violates the Geneva Convention, but it has contributed to multiple massacres of civilians as legal loopholes leave mercenaries unaccountable for their actions.

On April 5, 2008, the US State Department renewed its contract with the controversial private security firm Blackwater, USA. The questionable legality of hiring mercenaries aside, the renewal of the contract is particularly troubling upon examination of Blackwater's legal record. The company is currently under FBI investigation for the extermination of 17 Iraqi civilians in September of 2007. Those involved in the incident have not been prosecuted as they are protected by a provision known as “Order 17.” This order cripples the fledgling Iraqi courts, removing their ability to prosecute foreign contractors or anyone

claiming to be working in the interest of foreign contractors. This order has been evoked numerous times over the past few years to protect contractors who have carried out other atrocities against Iraqis such as the November 2005 killings of 24 civilians in Haditha. There are also numerous reports of U.S. embassy officials that have encouraged Blackwater to pay off the families of victims of some of its more violent campaigns.

The justification of the renewal of the Blackwater contract becomes particularly questionable when examining just who is being employed by these private security companies. As Gary Jackson, the president of Blackwater explains, “We scour the ends of the earth to find professionals.” This extensive job search has yielded quite a mixture of employees, perhaps most notably a diverse group of international war criminals. For example, over 1,500 South African contractors are currently employed in Iraq. Many of these contractors are former members of the notorious Vlakplass death squad that terrorized blacks under apartheid. Chilean recruits are also popular, especially those who previously carried out torture under the Pinochet regime.

Aside from hiring former war criminals, Blackwater has also recruited thousands of impoverished Third World veterans. Private security companies have had a particularly successful job search in Namibia. Namibia's war for independence ended 20 years ago and most of its veterans have few marketable skills. Many Namibians are desperately poor and uneducated and often do not have access to newspapers or television. Thus when signing up for jobs in Iraq, many had no idea of what they were getting into. The danger of working in Iraq aside, Amnesty International reports that many private security companies have

taken away the passports of Namibian contractors or delivered them to unexpected locations. There have also been reports that the contractors have been denied their salaries and forced to work under conditions of “indentured servitude.” Although private security companies have recently been banned from Namibia, they are now turning to neighboring countries like Angola, Uganda, and Mozambique to continue recruiting.

As the 2008 presidential election draws near, the issue of private contracting in Iraq deserves more attention. On February 28, 2008, Hillary Clinton co-sponsored legislation to ban the use of private security contractors in Iraq. She asserted that, “From this war's very beginning, this administration has permitted thousands of heavily-armed military contractors to march through Iraq without any law or court to rein them in or hold them accountable. These private security contractors have been reckless and have compromised our mission in Iraq.” Although according to one of Barack Obama's foreign policy advisors, Obama will not “rule out” using private security companies like Blackwater in Iraq, he will focus on bringing accountability to these forces. It is also important to note that John McCain has yet to comment on the issue of private security.

While support from the “Coalition of the Willing” may be in decline, the “Coalition of the Billing” is alive and well. Today an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 mercenaries from Blackwater and other private security companies are fighting in Iraq — that's an extraordinary amount considering that U.S. forces currently number about 140,000. The recently renewed Blackwater contract means these numbers will not decline any time soon, especially considering that the Department of State wishes to withdrawal thousands of American troops in the coming months. The U.S. government is obviously in need of outside help to fight its war, but hiring former war criminals and destitute veterans from a company suspected of massacring civilians may not be the best way to bring freedom and democracy to the Middle East. ©



Alexandra Siegel is a freshman who has not declared a major.



Tim Fitzsimons

Tim Fitzsimons



Tim Fitzsimons

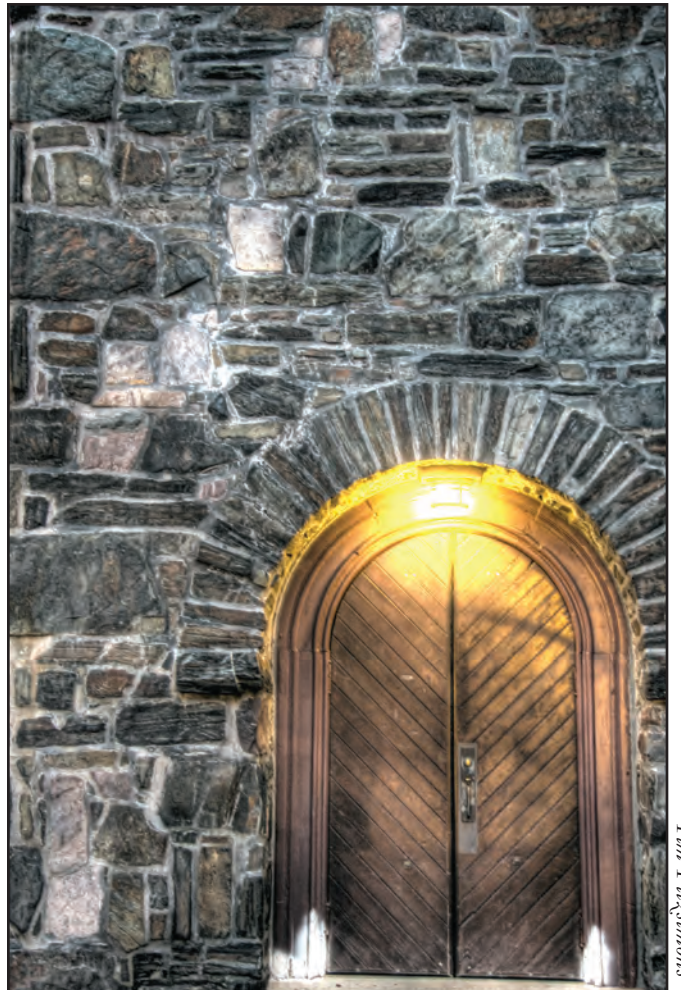




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From the Tufts Students for the Improvement of Residential Life

Submitted by The Tufts for the Improvement of Residential Life in order to open a dialogue about this issue between students and faculty.

In early April, on the first true day of Spring, a group of Tufts students sat outside of a certain downhill dorm, grilling burgers, offering free food to any who should wonder by, with the intent of bringing people together. The scene was undeniably Tufts — or at least what we aspire to be. It was the type of scene that would make it into any Admissions Office brochure: students handing out free burgers and drinks to strangers while encouraging others to come and have a good time.

But the students were not happy when, within one hour, the Residential Director of that dorm swooped in, demanding that all chairs be returned to their rooms. They were even less happy when the RD demanded the small fire in the grill be extinguished, and the BBQ be disbanded, citing university policy. Nor were they thrilled when this residential director proceeded to write down names of all those who had participated in the event, as if to begin the process of punishment.

At any other school, this scene would have played out differently. At Harvard, Rice, or Notre Dame, the students would have been encouraged by the administration to plan a hall function. At these schools, the administration might have even paid for the cost of the burgers and hotdogs. After all, the purpose of this function was to bring the hall together with students that under normal circumstances might not even speak to each other.

But no, this is Tufts. Unlike at other schools, these students were penalized and embarrassed. This incident is by no means isolated. On a daily basis, students are again and again reminded that residence halls at Tufts are not the place to build community, nor are they a place to call home. For the most part, they are decrepit, dingy, and underwhelming. The common rooms are underfurnished, seemingly subscribing to the

notion that the more unsightly chairs in a room, the better it is. Pool and ping-pong tables are rare, and the ones that do exist do not have any equipment. In fact, the university tends to treat on-campus residences like cheap hotels for students. Dorms at Tufts lack community, character, or beauty, and students aren't even guaranteed housing for all four years. It's no wonder that Tufts alumni are generally unenthusiastic when it comes to giving money: only a dismal 28 percent of alumni contributed a penny to the university last year.

Incidents such as these reveal a fundamental disconnect between students and the administration concerning the Tufts' identity. Prospective students tend to be filled with lofty notions of residence halls as individual, warm, inviting, character driven places that they would like to call home. These same students tend to see residential living as a cornerstone of life at a residential college; it's the place where friends are made. Some of them have even come to expect the same level of community and emphasis on community living that exist at our "peer schools."

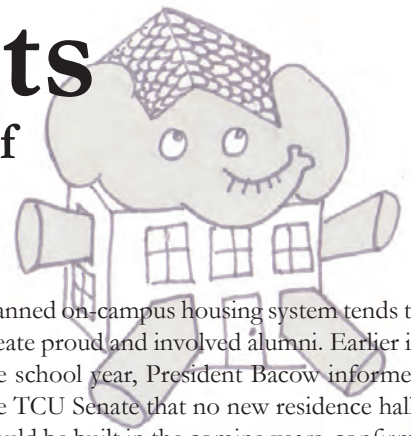
The university, for its part, takes a position on Reslife that is confusing and stubborn. While other institutions have long realized the value in using residential life as a vehicle to build community, in order to instill a sense of school pride in its students, administrators at Tufts remain relatively unconcerned. Why, they ask, are so many young Tufts alumni unenthusiastic about the Tufts spirit? Why do they return to campus in such low numbers? Why has school pride remained such a persistent problem and how does Tufts build upon its brand and reputation?

Administrators like President Bacow have been so feverishly working on building the endowment and improving the academic program (rightfully so) that they have forgotten one of the essential cornerstones of the university. They have forgotten that proud and involved students make proud and involved alumni, and that a well-maintained, community-centered, and well-

planned on-campus housing system tends to create proud and involved alumni. Earlier in the school year, President Bacow informed the TCU Senate that no new residence halls would be built in the coming years, confirming in students' minds that improving housing and living conditions was not a priority for the University. Additionally the University has remained mum about renovations to existing facilities, leaving students (the very residents) completely out of the conversation. To this day, not one administrator at Tufts is solely responsible for residential life. There is no mission statement, no vision, no master plan. It simply isn't important enough.

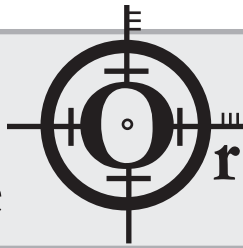
The student outcry is heard in the frequency of discourse among students about their discontent. The result is a kind of pathetic acceptance of the school's sub-optimal conditions. It's clear that we need a campus-wide conversation involving all levels of the administration and the student body to decide the future of residential life on this campus. This discussion is more than just common rooms and dorm renovations; it must go beyond extending the Tufts promise of housing to the thousands of students who live off-campus. This discussion is about who we are, and who we seek to be. Are we the large, impersonal, research university that cares nothing for its students? Are we the institution that cannot see some of the largest obstacles to its future, even if those obstacles are literally steps from the Office of the President? Are we the same university that designed a revolutionary method of admitting students, yet cannot implement basic methods to keep current students happy? Do we even care?

Until we have this conversation, and until we begin to treat residential life as a cornerstone of this university's existence, then we will continue to lag behind other schools in terms of alumni support, community cohesion, applicant desirability, and school pride. Together, let's make residential life into a system that we are proud of, into a system that is worthy of Tufts. ☺



In Defense of Hunting: ?

Cruella
DeVille



Captain
Planet

BY WILLIAM RAMSDELL

With the Environmental or “Green” Revolution finally coming into full swing in our generation, there has never been more criticism of our past indiscretions against Mother Nature. I would be the first to agree with these criticisms. However, there is a deep, dark, camouflaged past in the American environmental movement that is too often overlooked and, quite frankly, misrepresented: the role of hunters in the preservation of the great American wilderness.

In 1934, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Act was passed in response to growing concern about the state of the all-important American wetlands. These freshwater areas serve as water purification and recharge zones, and as reservoirs for excessive flood waters caused by deforestation and erosion. The world over, fresh water comprises only 1% of

the planet’s surface, yet it houses twelve percent of animal species and forty percent of all species total. This stamp act places a tax on all sporting arms, ammunition, hunting tags and apparel, and requires hunters to annually purchase a “duck stamp” or license in order to legally hunt. One hundred percent of the revenue goes to conservation, and 4.5 million acres have been saved since 1934 from stamp sales alone. What’s so interesting is that this crucial government step towards conservation was and continues to be funded by the same group of people who

brought the issue to Congress in the first place: hunters. Since then, federal taxes have been implemented which allocate funds to conservation, but the stamp continues to provide more than half of the money used to protect these vital lands.

So I ask you, my fellow Jumbos, why the harsh faces when I say to you that “Yes, I hunt”? Hunting has been a necessary, honorable, recreational, and even sacred activity

of which protect both that species and all other species on the property, hunted or not. During this process, biological data is recorded and submitted to Wildlife Services in order to keep close tabs on the overall health and population of the species. Since so much of the fertile husbandry land, especially in America, has been converted into land for cattle and people, natural predators like coyotes and the endangered wolf

have been exterminated to an alarming extent. As a result, species like deer that still exist outside of wreaking stockyards and concrete jungles have no predators. Without predators, such species would reproduce to the point of population-food curve destabilization — but for the attention of hunters and the data they provide Wildlife Services. It is in ignorance of the basics of biology that some people hold fast to the possibility of a species that has no natural or unnatural predators and is left to its own devices. The only result is a population that repeatedly over-consumes



WILL RAMSDELL

the food base to the point of sickening die off and so fourth. So, no, we (hunters) cannot just “leave Bambi alone” because we (humanity) have violently disrupted his ecosystem and now we (hunters) are the ones holding it together.

But alas, it goes further. People are obsessed with profit margins and productivity, which is why we landed ourselves in this chlorofluorocarbon catastrophe called global warming. So how much productivity do you think a thousand acres of prime Texas scrub land is worth assuming it isn’t covered

in cows, oil wells, or Walmarts? Squat is the answer. Beyond any shadow of a doubt, if sportsmen had not placed economic importance and value on lands and species otherwise profitable only for development and abuse, massive wildlife depopulation and possibly extinction would have already taken place to an extent worse than it already has. Why can't we save animals without killing any? Because we are a greedy, self-interested race for whom that which lacks obvious economic profitability holds little value. As the human population rises, the economic incentive to bulldoze animal habitats trails close behind. If hunters were not paying to fight off developers, the only thing standing in the way would be animals' inherent qualities of grace and beauty. For a crash course on how humanity evaluates true, natural, romantic beauty, just look at our planet's maimed rain forests and polluted oceans.

Hunting Social Justice

But I know what you Tufts Crusaders for Humanity like: Social Justice. This a little story I picked up hunting — in Africa. Zimbabwe is run by a corrupt man named Robert Mugabe. Mugabe ran out every land-owning white person several years ago in the name of native reclamation, and in so doing completely destroyed their once thriving agricultural base. In a few years, the inflation went from 3 Z\$ / \$1 US to over a 30,000 Z\$ / \$1 (as of 4.12.08) and poaching for food and trophy horn sales is decimating animal populations. But one industry remains incorrupt and profitable. The Lemco land session is a privately-owned hunting operation that holds 0.9% of Zimbabwe's total area. Managing to stay unhindered by the government, it provides a huge boost to the economy by bringing in hunters from around the world to take relatively small numbers of animals at high prices. Since the meat cannot be shipped internationally, it goes (for rock bottom prices) to the Zimbabweans inhabitants. Most importantly however, Lemco provides jobs to the local population that enable them to support their families without becoming illegal poachers. Single

handedly Lemco manages to provide food and legal jobs to otherwise destitute Zimbabweans while preserving the populations of t h o u -



by Ducks Unlimited, which has acquired and protected over 2,000,000 acres of grass land since its inception. They also dabble in conservation of fish habitats in support of angling, a sport which had net expenditures of \$38 billion in 1994 alone. DU also participates in reforestation efforts that have planted over 15 million hardwood trees in the once bare Mississippi Aluvian Valley. Ducks Unlimited is graciously supported by both hunters and non-hunters, and although the former makes up the vast part, it is encouraging that no division need exist.

Hunters, Hippiis, or Hicks?

Now after the second salvo of sportsmanly history and action, I reiterate my query as to why hunters are still looked down up and ridiculed? One West Wing episode hypothesized that there may be some outlandish judgments made by north-easterners about their fellow Americans from more temperate, southern climates. But I don't like to believe that Tufts, a paragon of social justice, would harbor people who categorize the South as a bunch of hicks anymore than I would say that the East coast is full of... well, let's keep this friendly. (Truth is, the South rose again 'while back, but decided not to tell y'all 'cause we knew you'd get 'tal bend outa shape 'bout it and we'd jus as soon let'chall freeze up thar anyhow). But I needn't worry as to regional prejudices need I? Especially since hunters by no means come only from the South, another generalization that causes me to cast a skeptical eye on Elmer J. Fudd and his eternal struggle against a rabbit with a suspiciously New York accent.

So yes, bohemian pleather-wearing activist, I feel you. I love the majesty of these animals, and I too want to save them — from extinction. But before you look down on me for taking sparingly from the land what it brings fourth in abundance, try to know our side. Know that we are the ones at 4 a.m. in the bitter cold just watching and appreciating, not shooting perhaps for weeks, until the time and animal are right. We are the ones who know these creatures and respect them for their grace and magnificence because we have observed that magnificence

sands of animal species in one of the most exotic and highly evolved biological regions of the world. Once again, it is payed for exclusively by hunters.

Back home, sportsmens' generosity towards conservation does not stop at the high taxes levied on their goods, nor even at conservation. For example, Hunters for the Hungry is an organization that accepts hunters' surplus game meat and distributes it to soup kitchens and homeless shelters where the historically lacking item from most soups is enough meat to impart a little flavor. Not only is game meat leaner than processed, hormone and antibiotic sodden meat, but it is truly organic and comes from one animal — in case anyone else was ever creeped-out by the realization that your hamburger and milk contains the substance of several hundred different cows, all fed on corn that they were not even biologically intended to consume.

Another organization known as Ducks Unlimited is a not-for-profit group dedicated to saving the habitats of waterfowl and all manner of American wildlife. The critical habitats of over 900 species are protected

by the light of countless dawns and dusks. Before assuming we waste life, know that my father and I tracked a wounded buffalo for two days in the African heat after we shot it, lest its wounds prove fatal and we cause the wasting of an animal life. I was war-painted in the blood of my first kill to instill in me the importance of every life, as well as the sadness (amidst bitter beauty and exhilaration) that encompassed the taking

of a life for your own. In the blood streaking my face and covering my hands was the energy of a life that lived, not sedated and stupid in its own feces, but free until it was taken, like its ancestor, by a predator. Not all hunters had the privilege of being instilled with the morals that my father insisted upon and not all eat everything they kill — but I do, and let me tell you, I have eaten some funky stuff in the name of never wasting

a sacrifice. Please remember who started this conservation thing in the first place and who continues to contribute more than all others combined: it was people like Theodore Roosevelt, the walrus mustache-toting champion of the “National Park” and prolific, lifelong hunter. ☺

William Ramsdell is a freshman planning to major in Architectural Studies and Philosophy.

Duncan for President.

A Recommendation from the Editor Emeritus

BY TIM NOETZEL

When Duncan asked me to lead his campaign’s public relations initiative, I admit I gave the idea more than a few minutes thought before accepting. As usual, I was busy, and more than a little preoccupied with some of the decisions seniors have to make — leasing an apartment to match the shiny new job I’d finally found, making plans for the summer, and wishing I could scrape together a few more dollars to fund them both. But when I really thought about it, it wasn’t a tough decision.

It’s rare to see someone with such passion, clarity of vision, and character as Duncan. During my time as Editor-in-Chief of the Observer, I had the pleasure of working with some of the most talented, creative, and intelligent minds on campus, and Duncan was always a leader among them. For every new idea one staff member had, Duncan had two. For every hour I spent writing or editing, Duncan spent three. But it wasn’t just how much Duncan did that impressed me; it was how he did it. Duncan worked with the passion and energy necessary to realize the goals we set together. Moreover, Duncan’s treatment of others made him truly exceptional. When someone complained, Duncan encouraged. When someone spoke, Duncan listened.

The presence of all of these qualities in any one individual of

our age is so rare that it’s worth spending a few extra moments on them. In the last four years, Tufts has seen good leaders in many capacities. When we think of leadership at Tufts, we think, certainly, of the legacy of Sol Gittleman. It’s obvious not only that exceptional leaders are few and far between, but that we students rarely have a choice between the two.

Imagine, however, what it would be like to choose for yourself — to pick a leader whose experience, vision, and character you knew and trusted beforehand. If you had the opportunity to learn from Sol Gittleman, wouldn’t you pick a student leader who followed in his footsteps?

I believe very firmly that Tufts stands now at a crossroads. In the past four years,

we have seen hints of greatness beyond even the prestige and excellence we must expect from a premier university. But we have also seen failures. It remains for us now to choose what to do with the potential created by those great leaders before us. We may choose, merely, to stay the course, to pride ourselves on the ivory tower of our knowledge, the political correctness of our speech, and our unapologetic amenability. Or we may choose to embrace a vision of Tufts not as it is, but as it ought to be, of a Tufts whose members are leaders among leaders and whose model of diversity is more than a collection of percentages.

Duncan is a great leader with a great vision. And now, at the time when Tufts is finally coming of age, we need him more than ever. For these reasons, I whole-heartedly support Duncan’s candidacy for Tufts Community Union President. ☺

Timothy Noetzel is a senior majoring in English.



ERIN BALDASSARI



Bite-sized news you might have missed since our last issue.

Incoming Freshman Are Still Smart

The Tufts Class of 2012 boasts the second lowest admissions rate that the school has ever seen. The university accepted 25% of its total applicants and 24% of regular decision candidates this year. More prospective students applied to Tufts than ever before; the admissions office received 16,644 undergraduate applications. This number showed a 1,000-application increase from last year. Lee Coffin, the Dean of Admissions, feels that the increase in applicants may be due to a recent change in Tufts' financial aid policy; as of December 19, students whose families earn under \$40,000 per annum would receive grants instead of loans.

Large Gift Begets Lab

The legacy of Frank C. Doble, Tufts class '11 has brought Tufts a windfall of \$136 million. Doble, who graduated with a degree in electrical engineering, was the founder of Doble Engineering Co. He "was a true innovator who foresaw the potential of the electric power industry when it was still in its infancy. The technologies that he developed made the industry safer and more productive," President Lawrence S. Bacow said of Doble, who passed away in 1969. Doble's trusts have yielded \$272 million, which has been divided between Tufts and Lesley University, in Cambridge. The contribution marks the largest donation that Tufts has ever received. The university is planning on using the gift to construct a new laboratory. Jamshed Bharucha, Vice President and Provost of Tufts, told the *Tufts Journal* that "New laboratories are needed in order to recruit the best faculty and enable them to thrive at Tufts as teachers and scholars. A new facility will also pro-

vide expanded opportunities for our students to get involved in research. At Tufts, we believe that research and teaching go hand in hand, and some of the best education takes place in our research laboratories."

Jumbos Fence Their Way to Nationals

The men's fencing team foil squad, comprised of Dan Tovrov '08, Dan Jamison '10, and Sam McCauley '10, recently sparred their way to a national title. The team ranked 13th overall at the United States Association of Collegiate Fencing Clubs (USACFC) championships held recently in Northampton, MA. "It's an incredible feeling. I've been on this high for the past few days since it happened. It's the perfect end to my career here, and it's just an awesome feeling," Tovrov told the *Daily* on April 11. Tovrov, who will be graduating this year, confidently expects that the team will continue to succeed. "I think that motivation is going to stay there and it's just going to drive these guys," he said.

Boston Shuttle No More

The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate has recently been forced to cancel the Boston Bus Shuttle. The shuttle was immensely popular with undergraduates and served to bring students to and from down-

town Boston on the weekends. However, after operating for only a short time, the Peter Pan Bus Company informed the TCU Senate that they could no longer provide rides for inebriated students.

Expansion in the Great Outdoors

The Tufts Mountain Club (TMC) has announced that it will sponsor an addition to the organization's New Hampshire Loj. The Loj, a seven-room cabin in Woodstock, is a popular destination for groups of students who travel north to hike, ski, or relax. Dan Buonaio '09, president of the TMC, explained the club's reasons for wanting to build another cabin. "Basically, at the Loj right now, there's only one building, so there's always a conflict between people who want to hang out and meet new people and those that want to go to sleep early to go on trips the next day," he told the *Daily*. The second structure will have a bedroom and a storage room, but no plumbing. The TMC hopes that the second cabin will help to serve the needs of all of the Loj's visitors. The addition will also increase the number of guests who may legally be at the Loj at one time from 26 to approximately 79.

—Compiled by Kate Schimmer



The Mainstream Media's Oldest Menace

BY HUI LIM



CORY DOCTOROW

If your out-of-class reading is heavily based on Zines, then be proud of yourself for being a supporter of independent print. (And congratulate me for finding you.) If you've been to the little, one-room Papercut Zine Library at Harvard Square: my hat's off to you. You have my respect. If you've actually *produced* a Zine, why, congratulations, you've trumped most people, and I want a copy...but first, what is a zine?

Everything (I repeat, everything) started with Benjamin Franklin. Rumor (read: Wikipedia) has it that he created the first Zine, an independent, self-published, not-for-profit publication of limited circulation. It was a literary magazine that catered to psychiatric patients at a hospital in Pennsylvania.

Three centuries later, Zines are commonplace in the print world. In the unruly garden of information, Zines are — well, the weeds. They spring up uninvited and latch their thorny commentary onto everything else. Be it music or politics, film or food, there isn't a field into which they haven't sunk their roots. Forget glossy photos, or large fonts for easy reading — some of them look like they are scrawled on napkins, or pages ripped from the Yellow Pages. Formal reporting is irrelevant, and irreverence is vital. Zines eschew the seed of expertise, the fertilization of professionalism, and the pruning of self-censorship. They're defiant. They're bizarre. They're invigorating.

For your local Zine experience, the Papercut Zine Library in Harvard Square should be your starting point. Their hours are irregular, so check for them at their MySpace page, www.myspace.com/papercutzinelibrary, before you head down. Remember: bona fide participation in the independent media scene requires bona fide effort.



CORY DOCTOROW

If your mind is as consumer-message-saturated as mine is, the first section you'll notice is the "Anti-Capitalism/Globalization" section on your right as you enter. The Adbusters volumes they have in stock are also well worth a flip through. I took special pleasure in browsing the section of my first love, food, where I chanced upon a hand-written chronicle of a donut connoisseur's adventure across the country

to sample donuts from a celebrated store. For the whimsical and indefinable, there is the must-see "Miscellaneous" section. Creativity knows no categorization.

The Papercut Zine Library is just one of a handful of Zine libraries across the United States. A few college libraries house Zine collections as well, including Duke University and Barnard College. Clearly, the Zine presence is healthy and growing. Zine-makers have even forged a community for themselves, with annual events such as Boston's very own Boston Zine Fair (formerly Beantown Zinetown), where Zine-makers gather to share their creations. Recognition for Zines is on the increase, particularly in the academic consciousness, where I myself was introduced to them.

Zines are the print world's antidote for present society's media ownership condition — high concentration in few corporate hands — making them impolitic to disregard. ☺

Zines are playful and candid — everything your weekly subscription magazine *tries* to be. Some are clever, a few are elaborate, whilst others are decidedly ego-trips (and thus are mildly amusing). Long story short, check Zines out because they're *fun*. Variety is a given, and quality — though not guaranteed — is actually, finally, rightfully left up to you to judge.

The Papercut Zine Library is located at the Democracy Center, 45 Mt. Auburn Street, in Cambridge.



CORY DOCTOROW



COURTESY OF CAMPUS MOVIE FEST

Campus Movie Fest 2008 Tufts Premiere

That time Pearson Hall tried to be cool and it actually worked.

BY ALYCE CURRIER

On Monday, April 14 at around 7:00 p.m., Pearson 104 looked a lot different than it did at 10:30 earlier that morning. Mysterious “CMF” logos were everywhere. A long line of students waited anxiously outside the doorway. This has never happened before my Biological Anthropology lecture in the same room. I’d say Pearson 104 fits around 300 people, and it was pretty packed for CMF.

Campus Movie Fest is the world’s largest student film festival. It provides teams with a laptop, a camcorder, and a week to create a short film. Forty-one teams at Tufts participated this year, and 16 films were shown at the premiere. Awards were given for the Best Comedy, Best Drama, Best Picture, and CV Showcase. Also, an Audience Choice award was given in the style of *American Idol*: everyone sent a text message with the number of their favorite film, and the movie with the most votes won.

The CV Showcase award went to *Dream Big* and *Red Like a Book*. *Dream Big* was about a guy with a guitar who did cool things on an animated chalkboard (which the makers did a really neat job with; want to teach me how to do that?). *Red Like a Book* was one of two Tisch Library romances (the other, *Hello*, was also noteworthy). It told the story, without spoken dialogue, of a boy pursuing a library crush in that cutesy, middle school way to which everyone can relate (there was even a

note with yes/no checkboxes aww!).

Best Drama was awarded to *The Usual*, about a very methodical guy who just wanted to be able to go to a restaurant and order the usual (which, for him, was pretty unusual: an onion bagel with strawberry cream cheese and a slice of American cheese melted on top. God, I hope I didn’t screw that up). In the end of the film, he got what he wanted. Again, aww.

Best Comedy was taken by *Jenkem Gangster*, a not-really-that-absurd-I-guess-because-we’re-in-college-and-anything-can-be-a-drug movie about a guy who discovers

that he can peddle human feces (“butt hash”) as a drug. The music fit the trippy scenes perfectly, and there were definitely a good number of funny moments (although some of them were admittedly a bit on the gross side). Aww?

And finally, the moment when that week of strenuous filmmaking finally paid off for one lucky team came when Best Picture was awarded. There were five nominees for this award so that we could pretend we were at the Oscars. Aww.

The nominees included *Dream Big*, *Jenkem Gangster*, and *The Usual*, as well as two



COURTESY OF CAMPUS MOVIE FEST

other films, *Patron Addicted* and *Two Cock Thieves*. *Patron Addicted* was a tale filmed in the posterized style of *A Scanner Darkly*, with rhyming narrations that reminded me of *The Grinch*. It featured a man whose greatest fear was the mall; however, once he began going there every day in hopes of overcoming his fear, he became addicted to consumerism's allure. When the film reverts to an unanimated style, the protagonist realizes that he has been neglecting the more important aspects of his life.

Two Cock Thieves was the whimsical, animated tale of two, well, cocks. (Not chicken, but the kind that people have attached to their bodies.) The two penises rob a bank, take "natural male enhancer" to become Godzilla-esque and fight off police, and more. The film ends with a montage of penis drawings reminiscent of *Superbad*.

The Best Picture Award went to *Patron Addicted*. However, all of the films featured in the premiere (and others that were submitted as well, I'm sure) were worthy of the recognition that they received by being

played. Highlights that didn't receive awards included *Rajmiri: Cold War Hip Hop* (about a Russian rapper whose downfall involved Flavor-Ice as a drug), *Coda* (about the typical Tufts party, you know, the kind where you end up running off with a crazy guy in a top hat), *Please Don't Laugh* (which made canned laughter terrifying), *Bokko-chan* (in Japanese and about a robotic girl), *The Thin White Line* (involving badass action and massive bags of cocaine), and *Release* (a seamlessly-put-together drama about dying babies).

The best films move on to a citywide competition between numerous Boston colleges, including MIT, BU, BC, Northeastern, and Emerson, that will take place at the Colonial Theater at 8:00 p.m. on April 26. ☺

To see the all of the movies made, visit www.campusmoviefest.com.

THIS IS YOUR MOMENT



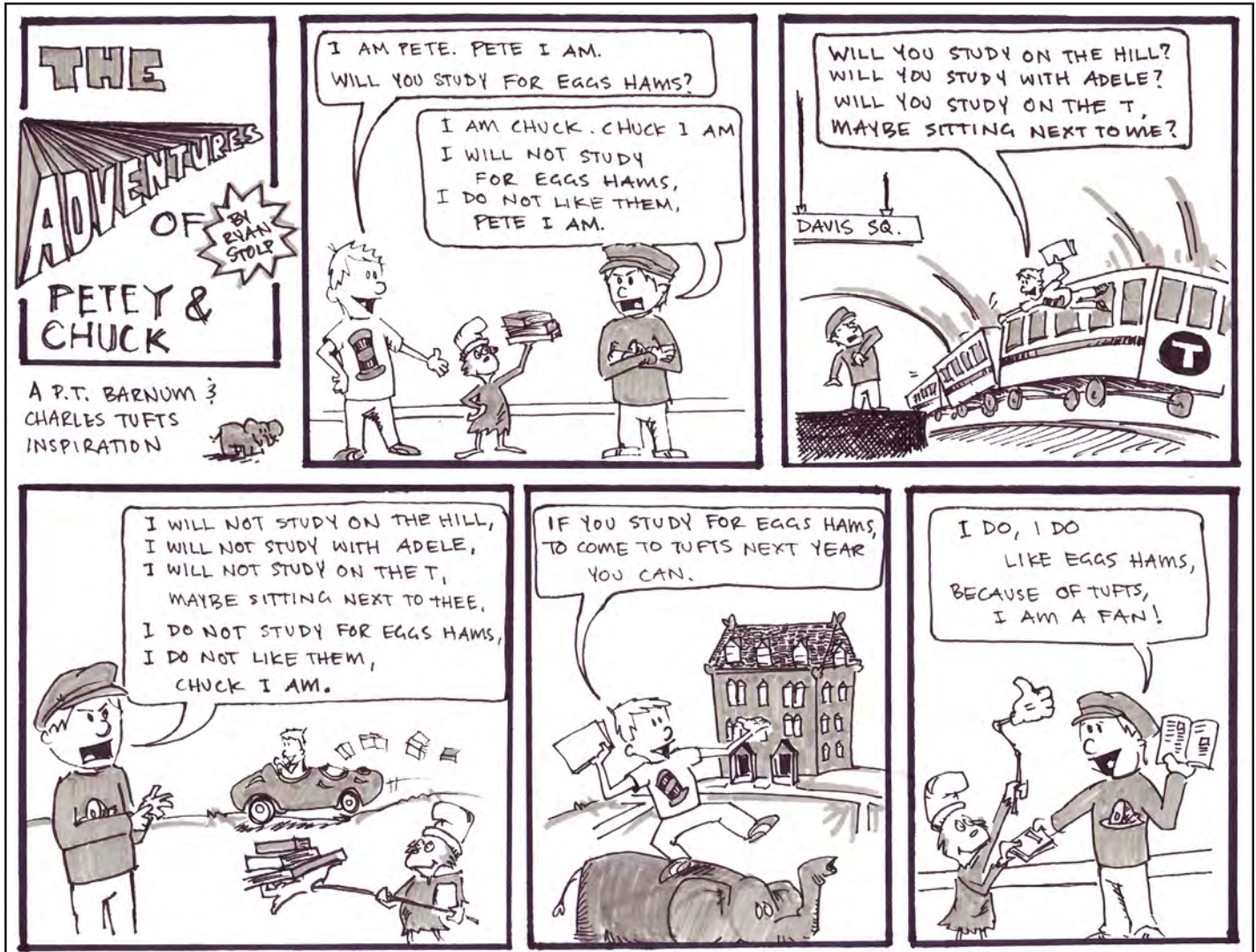
Photo by Meena Bolourchi (A'08)

MAKE IT LAST

What does Tufts mean to you? Submit your videos and photos about Your Favorite Tufts Moment, with a brief description, to moments@tufts.edu, or on Facebook, Flickr or YouTube. You may get on the Tufts homepage!

Go to <http://go.tufts.edu/moments> or check us out on Facebook!

Sponsored by the Office of Web Communications at Tufts



Hot Chip

Because even Jesus had a little hipster in him.

BY KATIE CHRISTIANSEN

When was the last time you saw a band with three synthesizers? Probably never. Well, shame on you; you should have been at the Hot Chip show this week. The British electro-indie gods graced the States with their presence on Monday at Paradise Rock Club in Boston, providing an enthusiastic and totally original performance.

A quintet of electropop geniuses, Hot Chip are definitely not what you'd call glamorous. The first member on stage, vocalist/keyboardist/guitarist Alexis Taylor was sporting a yellow Wendy's (yes, like the hamburgers) basketball jersey over a green t-shirt with big Dwight Schrute-esque glasses and a nerdy semi-buzz cut, a dead ringer for Kip Dynamite. The subsequent members were all clothed in varying degrees of hipster garb, ranging from tight suits to cheeky t-shirts. If one were to line up all five members of Hot Chip, they would have a somewhat motley assortment of nerdy, balding, chubby, skinny and super cool musical (as well as technical) wunderkinds.

The live lineup of Hot Chip members seems to vary frequently, but regular members Joe Goddard, Al Doyle, Owen Clarke, and Felix Martin all made appearances. Some are super enthusiastic, others are completely stoic. Martin, who stood solo at the back of the stage with his drum machine, seemed motionless for the entire set. Sporting a hipster 'stache, glasses, and dark clothes he clearly knew his job and performed it well. He'd be damned if he wasn't too cool to even tilt his head to the side. Other members like Doyle and Goddard couldn't help but be excited by their own music.

Oh right — their music. Hot Chip create a blend of synth-pop electro-indie

beats and melodies that are both intricately complex and fun to listen to. What's strange, however, is that they cite musicians such as Ween, Stevie Wonder, Neil Young, and Devo as major influences. It all seems strange, even made up really—that is, until you give their records several listens and realize that the music produced by these quirky Brits is a multifaceted blend of genres. Sure, what comes out of their synthesizers is electronic and upbeat. But what lies beneath as the very bare bones skeleton is something much more basic, something more old fashioned that cannot be produced by something plugged



MAGNUS WRENNINGE

into a three-prong socket.

Hot Chip aren't trying to trick you though; it seems as though they really do want you to be energized or relaxed, electrified or turned off depending on your mood and the song they're playing for you. Starting out with "Shake a Fist," the first track off of this year's *Made in the Dark* (EMI), was a wise choice. Its deep, resonating bass lines and driving off-beat drums paired with Taylor's soft, wispy voice give the song a mysterious, exciting feel. There wasn't much pause between songs; the group moved fluidly and cleverly from song to song without so much as a breath to indicate the change. What I assumed to be an improvised outro to one song would actually be a remixed intro to another.

That's the other thing about Hot Chip's live shows: they remix, re-do, and recreate like nothing else. Some of their better-known songs like "Over and Over" and "And I Was a Boy from School" retained their original appeal and catchiness but benefited from the variation. So, basically, Hot Chip does a kickass job of revamping their already stellar music. After all, who doesn't listen to a catchy song sixty times in a row only to get sick of it a week later? Hot Chip seem to realize this and make sure they give their adoring audiences what they already know in a shiny, new, pretty wrapper. Genius.

As the show progressed, it seemed as if they were able to gauge the audience's mood and energy levels. Just when I thought everyone around me couldn't possibly be any more into the music (read: knees bending slightly, not full body movements), the music would magically slow down and relax. By interspersing the more energetic songs with more chilled out ones such as "Wrestlers" and "In the Privacy of Our Love," Hot Chip gave us a moment to breathe and appreciate their other end of the spectrum. Well, that... and they kept from blowing out a fuse. Regardless, the variety of tempos, tones, keys, and rhythms that they kept shamelessly offer-

ing up was at all time entertaining, riveting, and just straight up fun.

Although this tour was in promotion of their new album *Made in the Dark*, Hot Chip played many songs from 2006's *The Warning*.

So next time you want to go have some unabashed fun and listen to some pretty stellar music, I suggest you don your Ray-Ban Wayfarers, throw on some skinny leg jeans, zip up something from American Apparel, and go see Hot Chip. ☺

Arts Editor Warning: being a hipster causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema, and may complicate pregnancy...of course it doesn't, but quitting being a hipster greatly reduces serious risks to your health.

The Artist Formerly Known as Princeton

(And Other Amusing Collegiate Comparisons)

BY ALYCE CURRIER
AND GEORGIA RANES

Do you ever just sit around and create correlations between musical entities and educational institutions, based entirely upon empirical, scientific logistics? Because we do. And then we write articles about it. Oh, and you probably don't want to read this if you're easily offended or not a Tufts student.

Tufts

As Tufts students, we felt obligated to assign Tufts to a band that is, well, good. But the standard was beyond just being good. Tufts is awesome, but even we were willing to admit that we're not the Radiohead of colleges. Most people have heard of us and few hate us, but the general public's knowledge of Tufts tends to be limited: we can't even begin to describe the number of times we've told someone where we go to school, only to receive a reply of, "You go to Tufts? Gonna be a dentist?" Which brings us to why Tufts is like The Strokes. There's a small group of people who can sing along to every Strokes song and then tell you which album it's from. And then there are the people who will tell you how much they love The Strokes, citing tunes popularized over the radio like "Someday" and "Last Nite," but then when you bring up more obscure songs like "Soma" or "Ize of the World" all they give you is a clueless stare. So I guess Tufts Dental School is like "Someday" and every other program is like the hidden Strokes gems that are just as good, just not as heard of.

Princeton

We thought long and hard about this one and came to the conclusion that the only appropriate band to truly represent Princeton and all of its dynamic faculties was...well...Prince. Besides their common affinity for bowties and bright colors, the real reason Prince and Princeton are perfect counterparts is their undying love for David Duchovny. Oh, and maybe because they have the same name...wait, was that obvious?

Oxford

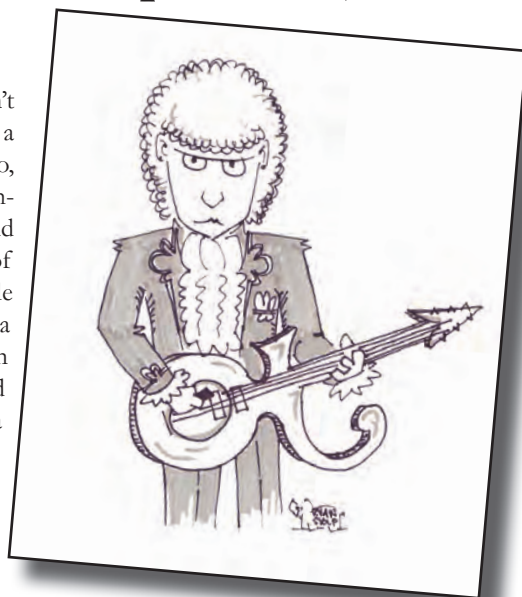
To be completely honest, we don't know much about Oxford, except that it's a super prestigious school in England. We do, however, know a thing or two about another famous English entity: The Beatles. And how couldn't we? If you haven't heard of The Beatles, we can't even offer you the title of "lifetime resident of the underside of a rock," because you're much worse off than that. Everyone respects the Beatles, and most people can say they've got at least a few of their songs in their mental music library if not their more tangible iTunes library. While we can't say our iTunes libraries contain any songs by Oxford University, we've certainly heard of it, and have no reason to diss it. And no one can deny the connection between a British band and a British university. Those crazy Brits.

Harvard

When you say Harvard, we say "pretentious!" Sorry, but wandering the courtyards of Harvard in search of the Fogg Museum (the art museum on the Harvard Campus), we could smell the snobbery (Hopefully this isn't libelous. But it can't be, since it's a matter of opinion. Thank you, media law class). You know, we could totally see Harvard on a stage talking pretentious babble and trying to seem politically involved. It would probably be wearing sunglasses. Oh wait, that's Bono. Which is why Harvard is so U2. Everyone knows them, and they've got a reputation. Some people even suck their prestige right up. But no one wants to hang out with them, kind of like the way no one wants to hang out with Bono. Or maybe that's just me.

Middlebury

We've never been to Middlebury, and everything we're about to say has solely been picked up via conversations with friends who went to visit during high school (none of them actually ended up attending). Just the fact that Middlebury's in Vermont says something about it: after all, it's pretty much the hippie capital of the United States — that legendary place where Ben and Jerry's originated, the place where just about ev-



RYAN STOLP

er y o n e

has wandered around naked while under the influence of that illegal herb that's so popular there (you know what we're talking about, and it's not basil or cilantro). And it's the hippie connection that leads us to draw a connection between Middlebury and The Flaming Lips. What logical stoner (or, you know, regular person who likes to relax) hasn't vegged out to "Do You Realize??" Yeah, that's what we thought.

Arizona State

Arizona is pretty much a crazy party school, in case you didn't know already. Unlike Tufts, their parties last past 2 a.m., and their school is the main feeder to Alcoholics Anonymous instead of the Peace Corps. Arizona State is Britney Spears. Sure the students are hot...at least at the beginning, but by the time they graduate, the years of intense partying get to them and, like Britney, they let themselves go, grow a beer belly, and before they know it they're divorced for the second time with two kids and a shaved head.

And there you have it. A highly scientific and strenuously thought-out compilation based on years of research by extremely qualified music and college aficionados. Check out our book, coming out next year, comparing presidential candidates to Dewick theme nights. ☺

Berryline Provides Delicious Dessert in Nearby Harvard Square

BY LAUREN LEE

Finally, this abysmal winter weather has been letting up a bit, which makes me think of ice cream and other frozen delights. Despite the fact that I promised eternal loyalty to J.P. Licks at the beginning of freshman year, my slightly more healthy and weight-conscious side has recently hopped on the frozen yogurt bandwagon, à la Pinkberry.

Sadly, Boston does not have a Pinkberry, which is a West Coast frozen yogurt chain. Luckily, though, Harvard Square is home to the lovely Berryline, which is tucked a small distance away from the T stop in an area into which perhaps most Tufts students would not venture. In spite of this, the short walk is definitely worth it. The dessert is already low in calories, but with the walk, indulging in this particular fro-yo turns out to be practically calorie-free.

Weighing in at a mere 25 calories per ounce, the small-sized frozen yogurt (which really is not that small) will set you back only 125 calories. Better yet, unless you add candy toppings, this is a dessert that is completely fat-free! How cool is that? (I sound annoyingly like Rachael Ray, sorry.) Most of the topping options are all equally healthy chunks of fresh fruit, which prove to be a nice contrast to the slightly sour yogurt. An adequate description of the taste of this particular kind of frozen yogurt would be that it tastes somewhat similar to the Greek Fage yogurt, but much sweeter, and without the same slimy texture. Instead, it possesses a similar texture to regular soft-serve. On top of this, there are a multitude of flavors to choose from, and they change seasonally (some of my favorites are banana, mango, and lychee).

In addition to adding as many or as few toppings as your little heart desires, you can also opt to mix different flavors of yogurt

together to create your own blend. I would recommend blending only fruit flavors with the original, or fruit flavors with other fruit flavors, as opposed to mixing something like coffee-flavored tangy yogurt with mango-flavored yogurt. That said, the combinations for flavors are endless considering they always have many fresh fruit options available for toppings. My current favorite combination is the original flavor paired with cubed strawberries and kiwis. As the fruit sits on the yogurt, the cubes become

give it a few tries before writing it off. And for those who are not so inclined to appreciate frozen yogurt that is not completely sweet, there are smoothie and coffee options available at Berryline as well. So even if your friends don't want frozen yogurt and you do, there are other options for them to enjoy, too.

In terms of location and ambiance, Berryline is located about a six-minute walk away from the Harvard T station, and the actual place (Café? Ice creamery? Yogurt-ry? Institution?) is very small. There are probably fewer than ten seats in the tiny space, and because it is quite popular, the majority of patrons take their cups of yogurt and leave. It's more of a grab 'n go sort of establishment, so if you want to wax philosophical or have a heart-to-heart over frozen yogurt, this is probably not the best place. That said, the interior is exceptionally clean and well-lit. The price is right too, with the small size ringing in at \$2.40 and the medium size costing \$2.90 without toppings (there's a large option too, but who really eats 12 ounces of yogurt, frozen or otherwise?).

There's just something inherently appealing about Berryline, to the point that my most studious friend who spends every waking hour in the library can be tempted out of the Reading Room with just the vaguest suggestion of a trip to Berryline. So, get thee to Berryline.

I might add that I generally hate healthy food and feel like an adulteress for cheating on my usual lovers of cheese, butter, and carbs for this heart-healthy dessert — but it's just that good. ☺

Berryline is located at 1 Arrow Street in Cambridge, MA. It is a short walk from the Harvard T station. Their phone number is 617-868-3500. Hours are: noon-11 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday and noon-12 a.m. Thursday through Saturday.



semi-frozen, but do not completely become pieces of fruit ice.

I must admit, though, that for some the taste of this new line of frozen yogurts does appear to be an acquired one. After the initial phase of "This tastes interesting..." most individuals I know do grow to appreciate the taste immensely and do make many repeat visits to Berryline. That being said,

CHINATOWN: A Welcome Escape

BY JAN MCCREARY

Boston's Chinatown is a place of both familiarity and alterity. Located just east of the Tufts Medical Center, Chinatown serves as a welcoming campus to the undergrad eager to experience life beyond the confines of Western society, if just for a day. Indeed, the densely populated streets marked with signs in colorful Chinese symbols and the inflections of Cantonese conversations provide one with an international escape unmatched by most other Boston neighborhoods. And yet Chinatown's physical intimacy and the tranquility of its workers and residents provide visitors with an unusually defined sense of home.

The fun and friendliness of the area's most active areas, Harrison Avenue and Tyler Street, are a testament to the delicate balance Chinatown is able to strike between its cultural individuality and universal appeal. During my visit, I pursued an even sampling of markets, restaurants, bakeries, and convenience stores, and found myself charmed by the character of each business.

Nam Bac Hong Chinese Herbs

While walking down Harrison Avenue, I spotted the crowded storefront window of Nam Bac Chinese Herbs. Upon entering, the varied scents of dried mushrooms, eastern spices, and herbal remedies swirled together to create a welcome calmness. Amid walls lined with classic Chinese prints and countless shelves of boxed and bagged products, customers peacefully waited in line to reach the cashier.

As I mingled, I was struck by the creativity and usefulness of the market's goods. Deer Antler Extract was sold as a nutritional supplement, and a variety of teas were available to treat everything from PMS to smoking to diabetes to tooth aches.

Towards the back, one woman was undergoing a pulse examination to determine which herbal medicine would be best to



SARAH KORONES

treat her ailments. As the examiner gently placed his index, middle, and ring fingers along the patient's wrist, she seemed calm and fearless. After realizing the array of remedies offered by these natural products, it became obvious why patrons seemed so silently soothed.

Entertainment & Convenience Stores

In addition to being the home of several delicious restaurants, Tyler Street features numerous small stores designed to provide the immigrant with a taste of home and the tourist with cultural exposure. When I stepped into the local movie store, I was confronted by thousands of fluorescent DVD covers with titles I could not decipher and the names of unfamiliar actors. Towards the back of the store, posters featuring Chinese heartthrobs with spiky hair and tight T-shirts were for sale along with Hello Kitty window clings, badminton racquets, and "You can speak good English" audio sets.

Bao Bao Bakery

After explorations on Tyler Street, I returned to Harrison Avenue to sample some desserts at the Bao Bao Bakery. On

weekend afternoons, the bakery is packed with parents and children in lines that back up towards the door. Once a potential customer gets close to the counter, it becomes clear why the bakery is so popular. Pudding cakes crafted to look like blowfish as well as cupcakes with sugar koala bears and Hello Kitty heads are sure to bring out the child in every customer. Bao Bao's creamy pastries, called paste puffs, were among my favorite sweets. Featured in flavors such as lotus, violet, green tea, and orange pineapple, they offered a unique twist on a traditional treat.

Despite the bakery's striking energy, the cashiers and pastry workers were calm operators in their cheerful pink smocks. This underlying order is perhaps the key to preventing bands of three-year-olds from erupting into a sugar-craved riot!

As I walked towards the edge of Chinatown after my explorations, I passed through the gate that marked my return to a suddenly underwhelming Western world. The beauty of Chinese culture left me eager to plan a return visit, and I would recommend a Chinatown excursion to anyone looking for something new. ☺

Corked

You live in the old shoebox
underneath my bed,
swaddled in some scraps of cloth;
an abandoned egg.

And as I sit here,
sit here, now,
tracing the edge of a book,
my mind recreates the day
I saw you in the woods.

I was so young, so surprised
to find someone else there —
in that spot —
I'd thought it was mine.
And the sunlight played on your face,
the willow branches seemed to reach,
to want to feel their spring green leaves
against your peach-soft cheeks.

I ran, ran back to my room,
before you could see -
and not having the right words,
I let my paintbrush speak.

Sitting here,
sitting here, now,
swirling my Chardonnay,
my thoughts roll backwards —
I start to hear the waves.

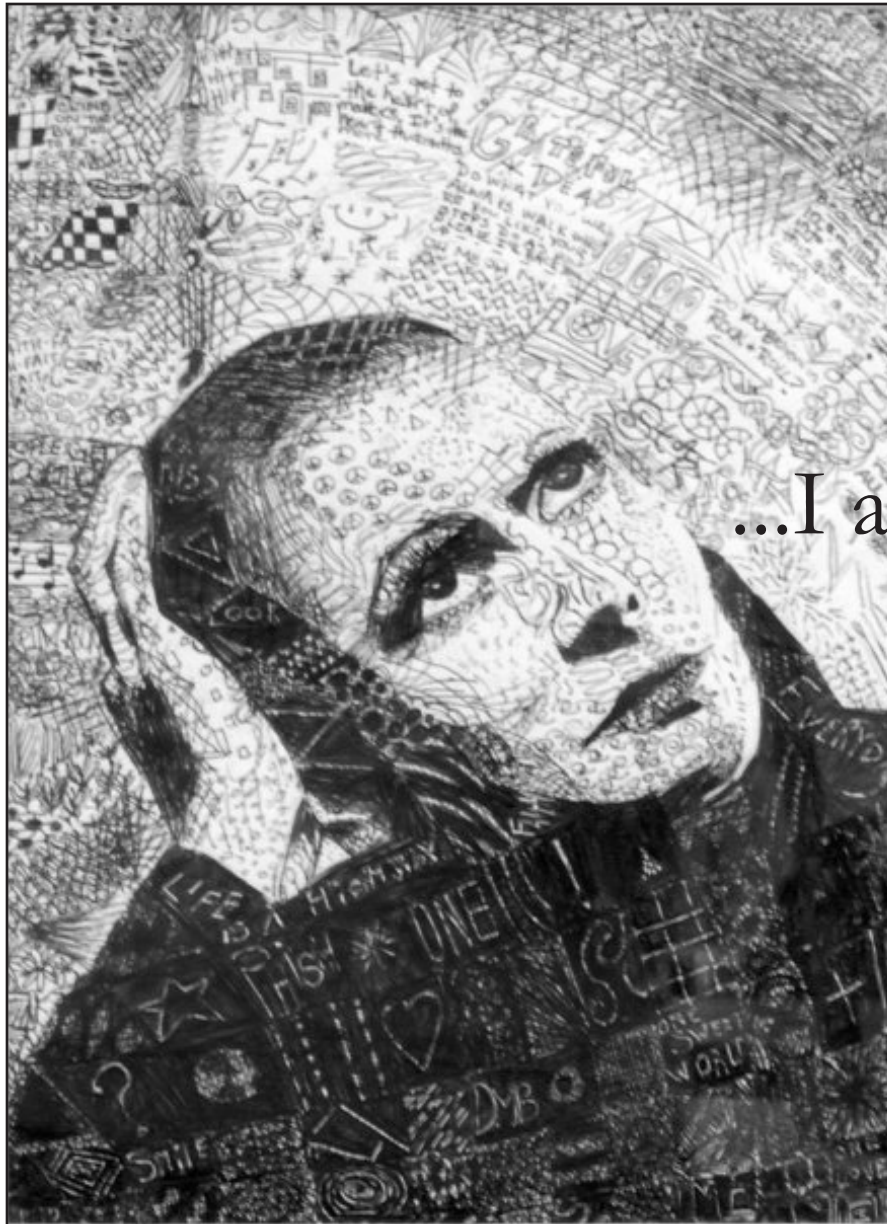
The wind was angry,
on the day,
that I biked to the sea.
A green glass bottle in my basket,
and you rolled up so neat.

But every time I cast you out,
the tide would bring you back.
My arm just growing weaker,
bare feet sinking in wet sand.

So you remain
in your dark cage,
and I think I
might be there too.

I'm there too,
but there's just
so much room,
so much room.

—FERRIS JABR



...I a



m a grand landscape

Cartography

You will know me on the stretcher
before they even draw back the sheet.

You will know my freckled feet,
sticking out and standing up,
my callous mountains rolling
into the birth-marked valleys
of my low-slung arches,
and my smooth stone ankles,
stamped with hungry tribal paintings.

I've been laying out landmarks all my life,
inked arrows and exes
and these tribal conceptions of longing,
because I saw early that this body was mine
and I've always wanted somebody to learn it,
to transcribe the curve of my heavy heels,
turn me, my body, turn this earth and soil
into maps.

And I tell you "take notes now,"
study the location of every dip and gully
buried in these blistered fields,
because I am a grand landscape,
and when my vein rivers run dry,
I need somebody to know where they were going.

—ALENE RHEA



Missy Ricculi is this week's featured artist. Missy is a sophomore majoring in International Relations.

Campus Bullets

Sanctioned Field Trip to Legalized Brothels

Randolph College students recently took a very unique field trip to Chicken Ranch, a legal bordello in the desert 60 miles outside Las Vegas. The field trip, which included seminars from the working girls, was the culmination of a course on American consumption. The Virginian students were the first class to tour Chicken Ranch and learned firsthand about legalized prostitution in one of Nevada's 27 legal brothels.



Spring Fling

Saturday, April 26:

See the Dropkick Murphys and Common, Witness the ensuing Police Blotter buffet

Like Money?

Join the  as a Business Manager

The Observer is recruiting talented, entrepreneurial, independent, students to manage the business side of the magazine in the fall. We have two paid positions available for business-oriented undergraduates.

For more information contact us at:

observer@tufts.edu



POLICE

BLOTTER

Wednesday, April 9

At 3:15 p.m., TUPD responded to a call at the Campus Center where a delivery driver had taken off his shoes and put up his feet at one of the tables. According to the employees at the Campus Center, the driver would do this every day and refused to buy any food. Officers escorted the man off of the premises.

Sunday, April 6

At 2:15 a.m., TUPD officers witnessed two individuals between Chi Omega and Delta Upsilon putting something in a black bag. Upon investigation, officers discovered that one individual was a Tufts student and the other was on a recruiting trip for football. Officers inspected the black bag and found it to contain a group photo of Delta Upsilon brothers, three books, rolling paper, and a condom. When asked why they had taken the books, the offenders replied, "because we wanted to read them."



Artwork by Missy Riculli

Tufts Observer

Since 1895

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